

Five Mile River Commission
September 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Norwalk City Hall, Room 101
Norwalk, CT

Commission members in attendance:

Matt Marion –Chairman

Dirk Leasure

Wim Jessup

John deRegt

David Snyder, Harbor Superintendent

Steve Bartush, Assistant Harbor Superintendent

The Five Mile River Commission meeting commenced at 7:34 with a full quorum. Upon motion by Chairman Marion, the Commission unanimously ratified its prior approval of the July 19th, 2018 meeting minutes, which had been filed electronically with Darien and Norwalk within the statutory period shortly after the Commission's July meeting.

Chairman Marion noted at the outset that the October and December Commission meetings will be held at the newly renovated Rowayton Community Center in the general meeting room.

The Commission then reiterated its thanks to Harbor Superintendent (HS) Snyder for purchasing a center console boat in part for Commission-related use on the river. HS Snyder shared several photographs and specifications of the boat, which he, along with Assistant Harbor Superintendent Bartush and former HS Ray Meurer, will use to patrol the Five Mile River. Discussion included removable signage to identify the vessel when in "official" use as well as a fair allocation of operating expenses between the Commission and Mr. Snyder personally that Chairman Marion indicated would be memorialized in writing.

In reviewing various issues related to the mooring string in the river, Chairman Marion observed that the strings were generally neater and better organized than they had been in years past. In response to a Commission question, HS Snyder confirmed that one vessel, the sailboat Kate, had failed to have its ground tackle inspected during the 2018 season. The Commission then directed him to inform the owners of the vessel that their mooring application would not be renewed for 2019 unless they completed their 2018 ground tackle inspection and submitted the applicable paperwork by Friday, September 14th. HS Snyder stated he would follow up with the permittees and with the Commission promptly after the deadline.

The Five Mile River Commission then discussed several mooring field proposals and considerations circulated by the Harbor Superintendent. Points included possible guidelines to address:

- Standardizing lengths of chain to depth of the water at high tide
- Shared bow/stern anchors with neighboring vessels
- Mooring anchors marked/lettered by MSP per mooring map

The discussion also encompassed how to remove long abandoned moorings on the Western E-F lines and whether/how to achieve a single string bow/stern mooring field from the E-string North. HS Snyder agreed to follow up with the marinas identified as the most recent managers of the abandoned moorings in order to send notices to the last known permittees of those moorings.

Under new business, Commissioner deRegt recommended the Commission inquire whether it would be possible to include brief articles in the Rowayton publication, "Currents". Also, the Commission also recommended creating SUP and Kayak signage for the 2019 season. HS Snyder to follow up. Third, Commissioner Jessup recommended that the Hurricane Preparedness email be sent out. The HS agreed to follow up. Finally, Steve Bartush lead a discussion about water quality, including necessary water testing equipment and the prevalence of sea lettuce in the Five Mile River this summer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next Five Mile River Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at Rowayton Community Center, Board Room, 33 Highland Avenue, Rowayton, Connecticut