

Five Mile River Commission
January 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes
Rowayton Community Center
Norwalk, CT

Commissioners in attendance:

Matt Marion (Chairman)
Dirk Leasure
Wim Jessup
John deRegt

Also Present:

David Snyder, Harbor Superintendent
Steve Bartush, Assistant Harbor Superintendent

The Five Mile River Commission meeting commenced at 7:33 with a unanimous vote to ratify the Commission's prior approval of its December 6, 2018 meeting minutes, which the Commission had reviewed, approved, and filed electronically with Darien and Norwalk within the statutory period shortly after its December meeting.

The Commission reviewed two pending dock applications (197 Rowayton Avenue and 19 Cudlipp Street). After discussing the details of the 197 Rowayton Avenue application, the Commissioners focused on the applicant's delayed submission of its application to the Commission and the possible location of shellfish beds adjacent to the proposed dock. Chairman Marion requested that Assistant Harbor Superintendent Steve Bartush advise the Norwalk Shellfish Commission to communicate its concerns about such beds directly with the DEEP, and the Commission approved the draft letter to the applicant. Second, the Commission reviewed, discussed, and unanimously approved the dock application for 19 Cudlipp Street, Rowayton, CT.

Next, the Commission reviewed the action items listed in its December 6, 2018 meeting minutes: (i) the Harbor Superintendent confirmed that he had changed cellphone carriers, effective January 1, 2019, thus reducing the cost of phone coverage by 50%; (ii) Commissioner Leasure reported that he is reviewing the Commission's checking account arrangements, and confirmed he would provide an update at the Commission's February meeting; (iii) Chairman Marion is awaiting the results of Commissioner Leasure's inquiry before finalizing the account-related information required to complete the 2019 transient mooring (Dockwa) paperwork; (iv) Harbor Superintendent Snyder reported that he had arranged for the removal of several abandoned moorings in the 'E' and 'F' strings (as detailed below); (v) Harbor Superintendent Snyder discussed marking moorings for the 2019 season (as set forth

below); and (vi) Chairman Marion confirmed he would circulate a draft refund policy covering Harbor Use Fees as well as proposed revisions to the ground tackle application before the February meeting.

Then, the Harbor Superintendent addressed several items requested by the Commission and presented his report. First, he reported on abandoned mooring tackle in western E/F mooring strings, confirming that the ground tackle and mooring balls between E13 and E18 have been removed. Second, he presented recommendations for realigning and marking the mooring strings south of 'D'. After discussion, the Commission directed the two tasks be split, with a mooring marking scheme being implemented in 2019 and the 'E' string realignment in 2020, concurrent with the next cycle of ground tackle inspections.

The Harbor Superintendent offered several recommendations for implementing a mooring marking arrangement commencing this year. Based on conversations with the marine service providers (MSPs) who will implement and maintain the marked mooring balls, he proposed the forward ball in each mooring setup be marked with a 3-4" stenciled, painted alpha-numeric designator applied by the MSPs. The forward ball will be marked on its port and starboard sides. The mooring balls will be re-marked bi-annually as needed between early February and the end of March on odd years, starting in 2021. It will be the responsibility of each mooring permittee to ensure his/her forward mooring ball is properly marked by a qualified MSP. Harbor Superintendent Snyder will send an email to all current and prospective mooring permittees describing the process. After discussion, the Commission voted unanimously that the Harbor Superintendent implement the mooring ball marking policy starting in 2019, subject to ironing out certain details at a joint meeting with the marine service providers and at least one Commissioner.

Finally, the Harbor Superintendent reported YTD expense and income reports and summarized his various actions in December and January, including sending application emails to dock and mooring database, processing dock and mooring applications, ordering/delivering 2019 harbour use stickers to Tammy Papp, and delivering applications to marina operators for distribution to mooring permittees.

Under New Matters, Assistant Harbor Superintendent Bartush reported that SeaGrant/UConn is reviewing Connecticut locations for shellfish restoration projects and, in that vein, has requested that local shellfish commissions identify areas in need of restoration. The Five Mile River tidal flats on the western side of the river is under consideration.

Action Items for the February 2019 meeting include the following topics/actions:
(i) Commissioner Leasure's report about his inquiry regarding the Commission's

checking account arrangements; (ii) Chairman Marion's report about the Dockwa paperwork (provided the account-related banking information is available); (iii) Harbor Superintendent Snyder's update regarding the continued removal of abandoned moorings in the 'E' and 'F' strings; (iv) updates from the Commission and Harbor Superintendent Snyder regarding the marking mooring arrangements for 2019; and (v) Chairman Marion's report regarding a draft refund policy covering Harbor Use Fees and proposed revisions to the ground tackle application.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 7:30 pm at Rowayton Community Center, 33 Highland Avenue, Rowayton Connecticut.

Respectively submitted,

Five Mile River Commission and David Snyder, Harbor Superintendent