

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: John Romano, Chairman; John Crespo; Alan Kibbe; Christopher MacDonnell; Anthony Mobilia; Dr. John Pinto; Dennis Santella

STAFF: Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Steve Bartush, Shellfish Commission, Joe Schnierlein, Water Quality Committee

OTHERS: Wes Oliver, Norwalk Yacht Club

1) Call to order/pledge of allegiance

Mr. Romano called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. and the attendees rose and recited the pledge.

2) Roll Call

Attendance is noted above.

3) Chairman's Report

Mr. Romano reported a meeting has been scheduled with the Mayor and others from his office regarding a possible relocation of the Marine Police base. He added Veteran's Park is one possible site, but that has not been finalized at this time. Christopher Macdonell said that the proposed location of emergency vessels in locations that may be inaccessible during emergencies such as floods or hurricanes is not good planning. Mr. Steadman said that the application was for the feasibility only. Only two possible locations were given and both would be under the same circumstances if there is flooding. The fire department has been using the city docks for a long time. Mr. Romano said that this is only under consideration

4.) Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5.) Staff Reports

a.) Harbor Master - Scully

There was no report.

b.) Consultant – Steadman

Mr. Steadman reported that on the General Assembly's Environmental Committee held a public hearing on February 21 on the Blue Plan prepared by DEEP. The Connecticut Harbor Management Association submitted comments.

The Association had concerns that the Blue Plan overlaps with municipal harbor management jurisdiction.

The Association was assured that the Blue Plan will not affect harbor management commissions' authority.

6.) Shellfish Commission – Bartush

See attached.

7.) Committee Reports

a. Nominating Committee – Pinto

Annual Election of Officers

Dr. Pinto said Mr. Romano, Mr. Santella and Mr. Crespo were nominated for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Recording Secretary respectively.

****MR. ROMANO, MR. SANTELLA AND MR. CRESPO WERE ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Application Review – Pinto

1. **Village Creek Harbor Corporation**

This was a pre-application of pre-existing structures and permission to modify and re-configure existing docks. The applicant proposed to add one additional 3'x30' finger dock and piling on the west side of the main dock and four 2'x12' finger docks on the north side of the facility. An 8' x 10' sail float that was shown in the 2016 permit on the north side of the facility has been removed to make room for a net gain of 106 SF of float area.

Dr. Pinto explained the work was done without a permit. The applicant went back and corrected the problem and it was discussed with DEEP and no violation was issued by DEEP.

**** MR. KIBBE MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION.
** THE MOTION PASSED WITH 6 IN FAVOR AND ONE RECUSAL (MR. MACDONNELL).**

2. **Action Item:** Open Discussion of Walk Bridge proposals regarding placement of transmission cables by Eversource and DOT, DOT's plans for relocating Maritime Aquarium and Seaport Association excursion vehicles, DOT's plans for stationing work barges in Norwalk Harbor; DOT's plans to monitor water quality.

Mr. MacDonnell said he has issues with the overall activities they are doing including the demolition of the existing bridge and the disposal of the lead paint. They are going to slide the swing bridge north and then up the river to make room for the existing structure to be put in place and then it magically disappears. He said they are going have to moor it on a barge and cut it up to get it out to slide the existing swing bridge north and then it magically disappears. That is something that needs a serious plan.

Mr. Steadman said that the Harbor Commission has been told that DEEP will schedule a meeting with the Commission and DOT to discuss water quality matters.

Mr. MacDonnell said that none of that can get done without lead paint containment. Mr. Romano said if they are not addressing the lead paint issue than it's the Commissions job to make them address it.

Mr. Steadman said when we have another a meeting the issue of the lead paint will be brought up. He said some of these concerns are addressed through the conditions of the permit.

c. Mooring and Harbor Safety – Santella

See attached report.

There is no report for Harbor Safety

d. Finance - Mobilia

Mr. Mobilia reported the balance was \$14,292 which included a check for \$1,680 from On Line Mooring. There has been \$1,450 in expenses since January 1 and there are several bills to come. The balance started out at \$25,509. The Commission has a \$9,300 bill from last year from Mr. Steadman and \$530.35 for expenses. This represents half of the entire bill. A motion was passed to pay for Mr. Steadman's first half of his bill. There is another bill for the second half due to come in from Mr. Steadman and Mr. Romano asked that Mr. Steadman combine in into one bill and put it in before March 11. There is

another bill from the Shellfish Commission for \$3,200 that the Harbor Commission is paying for half or \$1,600. Those two bills combine leave a balance of the 2,862. The previous vote was amended to say that the combined bill from Mr. Steadman is approved not to exceed \$19,500. Mr. Mobilia reminded the group to provide the vendor the tax number anytime an expense is incurred.

**** DR. PINTO MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MR. STEADMAN'S INVOICES NOT TO EXCEED \$19,500.**

**** MR. KIBBE SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

e. Plans and Recommendations – Magels

There was no report.

f. Newsletter/Web site – Kibbe

There was no report.

g. Water Quality – Crespo/Schnierlein

See attached.

In addition, Mr. Steadman said that it the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative meeting was good because the Ridgefield First Selectman was basically seeking assistance from the Watershed Initiative and the same principle of cooperation holds true for the Harbor Commission showing that we share the same issues regarding water quality. Mr. Schnierlein reported that the First Taxing District Water Company is looking into two dams on the Norwalk river for modifications. Mr. Romano said that he thinks that the city of Norwalk is more receptive to the issues that the Harbor Commission has.

h. Bridges – Mobilia

There was no report.

8.) Approval of Minutes

The following amendments were made to the Application Review Committee Minutes of January 22, 2020.

Add after OTHERS: **JOHN ROMANO**

Paragraphs 1-3 on the first page were replaced with the following paragraphs:

Mr. Steadman distributed drawings and photos of the proposed location for vessel relocation. He also presented a Harbor Management Commission report dated February 27, 2019 listing outstanding issues. Dr. Pinto explained that when the DOT created the plan, they did not come up with a risk evaluation. Mr. Steadman said that the DOT submitted its permit application to DEEP without the signed pre-application form from the Harbor Management Commission.

Regarding the DOT's vessel relocation study, the DOT had said they had left it up to the vessel captains to select the best option for vessel relocation and the DOT came up with a plan to move the docks and dredge the selected area. In a December meeting with the United States Coast Guard, representatives of the Coast Guard, DOT, Harbor Management Commission, Shellfish Commission, Norwalk Marine Police Division, and the Harbor Master went to the site and discussed the proposed relocation of the vessels. The Harbor Master and representatives of the Marine Division said they cannot not approve of the relocation plan.

Following that meeting, it was recommended by the Harbor Master and Harbor Management Commission that the DOT evaluate other sites for vessel relocation on the south side of the Stroffolino Bridge.

Mr. Romano requested that the Applications Review Committee minutes also reflect that he attended

**** DR. PINTO MADE A MOTIION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES OF THE APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**** MR. CRESPO SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY.**

**** MR. KIBBE MADE A MOTIION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING.**

**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY.**

9.) New Business/Old Business

There was no new business or old business.

10.) Adjournment

**** MR. SANTELLA MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

G. Venuto

Telesco Secretarial Services

Attachments:

Shellfish Commission report

ATTACHMENTS