

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 25, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: John Romano, Chair; Dr. John Pinto, John Crespo, Alan Kibbe, Tony Mobilia, Jeffrey Mangels, Christopher MacDonnell, Dennis Santella

OTHERS: Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Gregg Scully, Harbormaster; Steve Bartush, Shellfish Commission; Joseph Schnierlein, Water Quality

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.
The public was able to listen to this meeting by calling a conference line.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Romano called the meeting at 6:15 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Schnierlein led everyone on reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Report

STAFF REPORTS

a. Harbor Master – Gregg Scully

Harbor Master Scully said that there was a yacht that was still tied up on a ball and they were waiting to hear by July 11th to see if the owner had complied with the registration and insurance requirements. There has not been any contact with the owner to date.

Harbor Master Scully said that originally it was a 15-day period and later the deadline was extended. The owner has not responded to a certified letter, phone calls or emails.

Mr. Romano asked about transit moorings. Harbor Master Scully said that Recreation and Parks handles this. There have been numerous inquiries for moorings, but the first question is about dinghy storage. Harbor Master Scully said that they need to work on this issue with Parks and Recreation to add more spaces.

Harbor Master Scully said that there is one sailboat mooring by Shore and Country Club and the owner has been following members through the gate to gain access. He then

carries his kayak through the parking lot, which is not acceptable to the Club. Harbor Master Scully said Norm Edwards had said the owner had not paid for either last year or this year. Discussion followed about the increased need for mooring locations. Harbor Master Scully said that there is room to add more moorings.

Harbor Master Scully said that there were a lot of new customers and the payments were coming in. He said Mr. Edwards reported there have been a number of problems with signing in on the inspections.

b. Consultant – Steadman –

Mr. Steadman said that Council Member Shanahan had emailed him to see if he knew about a grant application opportunity for transit vessels that are 26 feet or greater. Mr. Steadman said that there had been Helix moorings that had been removed during the dredging and never seen again. Mr. Romano said that Mr. Steadman should apply.

SHELLFISH COMMISSION

Mr. Bartush said that recreational shell fishing was open in Norwalk and licenses were available at Fisherman’s World.

APPLICATION REVIEW.

310 Wilson Ave., CAM Revised Plan Application and application for a Special Permit, WEB construction, LLC. The applicant proposes to re-develop a currently vacant property as a contractors’ yard for outdoor material storage located on a “previously disturbed” and developed area. The property is served by city sewer and water. Storage of materials will comply with FEMA minimum flood elevations. A new on-site storm water retention system consisting of a catch basin and oil separator is proposed and is accompanied by other utilities and landscaping. The revised plans incorporate comments from Norwalk Zoning staff and John Gaucher of DEEP. All proposed work/activity is landward of the coastal jurisdiction line (CJL). The following revisions have been made: removal of a 20’ block wall and replacement with low curb and additional filter fabric. Previous landscaping and fence with privacy slats will remain based on discussion with John Gaucher at DEEP.

Dr. Pinto said that they had submitted their comments previously about storm water run-off and had an extensive conversation about the application during Application Review.

**** MR. MCDONNELL MOVED TO EXPRESS NO OBJECTION TO THE APPLICATION MOVING FORWARD SUBJECT TO THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED DURING THE APPLICATION REVIEW MEETING.**

**** MR. MANGELS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

• Mooring and Harbor Safety - Santella

Mr. Santella said that the mooring applications had been slow. There are 32 approved applications and 72 applications pending. The Sprite Island payment has been received but not a report on managed fields moorings.

• Finance – Mobilia

Mr. Mobilia presented his report. There is a balance of \$7,564 and one outstanding consultant bill from 2019. Mr. Mobilia said that he would be paying this with the grant funding after July 1st. The Commission has requested \$20,000.

• Plans and Recommendation – Mangels

Mr. Mangels said he was looking forward to meeting with the Gardellas.

• Newsletter/ Web site – Kibbe

Mr. Kibbe said the website is up and active.

• Water Quality – Crespo / Schnierlein –

Mr. Schnierlein reported the Department of Aquaculture Would not be taking any action regarding testing the water quality because COVID-19 is not water borne.

There was also a recent public meeting about Manresa island and while Mr. Schnierlein had sent in questions in advance, those questions were not answered.

Currently, the stream flow along the Norwalk River is down to below the 25% percentile. Mr. Schnierlein said that with the proposed construction could reduce the amount of water available. Mr. Romano said that the Water Quality should make a statement about this.

Mr. Steadman said that they were trying to arrange a meeting with the consultant about the DEEP turbidity data.

There is a Bridgeport proposal to send surface water from Westport and Fairfield to southern Fairfield County. Interested Parties have requested that DEEP hold a public meeting.

The First Taxing District is working on a plan for the Silvermine River. They have to build up the sides of the dam at the New York reservoir. July 20, 2020 would be the first public hearing on the issue.

Mr. Dick Harris ran tests and found low levels of bacteria. There are also concerns about Chinese mitten crabs.

• **Bridges – Mobilia –**

This had been discussed during Application Review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• **June 3, 2020 -- Application Review Committee.**

**** MR. MANGELS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2020 APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING.**

**** MR. MOBILIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2020 APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

• **June 3, 2020 Harbor Commission Meeting**

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2020 HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING.**

**** MR. MOBILIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2020 HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. MANGELS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

City of Norwalk
Harbor Management Commission
Special Meeting
June 25, 2020

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services