

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Tony D’Andrea, Chair; Jack Callahan, Dr. John Pinto,
Tony Mobilia, Jan Schaefer

OTHERS: Peter Johnson, Shellfish Commission; Geoff Steadman; John Frank
Harbor Master Michael Griffin (7:40 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. D’Andrea called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Ms. Schaefer led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mr. D’Andrea called the roll and announced that there was a quorum present. Mr. D’Andrea added that Commissioners Cebrian, Romano, Clark and Palau all had excused absences.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mr. D’Andrea said that his report was as submitted. He gave a brief overview of the phone calls he received during the month.

Harbor Master Griffin joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

2009-13: Richard Scalise, Jr., 15 Seabreeze Place, Norwalk – A Notice of Determination was received from the State of Connecticut for this application.

Permit #201000614-SJ – Thomas Balsey, 14 Pine Point Rd. Rowayton - A Notice of Determination was received from the State of Connecticut for this application.

Planning and Zoning Report - No Report

REPORTS

Dredging – Dr. Pinto said that he, Mr. Mobilia, Mr. Steadman had met with the ACOE about Plans for Phase III of dredging. He said that a chart with volume computations to restore the Harbor to the original state. Permission had been given to dredge to 12 feet, but due to other circumstances, the dredging was limited to 9 feet. Dr. Pinto then

reviewed the details of the plan and the finances with the Commission. Discussion followed about the next steps in the project.

**** MR. MOBILIA MOVED TO WRITE A LETTER TO ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS [ACOE] SUMMARIZING THE MEETING AND ASKING THE ACOE TO AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION TO MOVE TO THE NEXT STEP OF THE PROJECT.**

**** MR. CALLAHAN SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Finance – No report.

Boating and Harbor Safety – No report.

Water Quality/ Watershed Initiative – Ms. Schaefer said the water testing had been completed and the water quality was consistent with high counts of bacteria. The major discussion centered on the beach closures at Calf Pasture and Shady Beach. This situation is being investigated and dye tests are being performed. Discussion followed about the history of the drainage problems and the possible sources of contamination.

Mr. D’Andrea pointed out that neither he nor Mr. Frank could recall a time when both the commercial shellfish beds and the beaches were closed for such a long period of time. Not only is this a public health hazard, but also a financial setback for the shellfish permits and beach revenues. Ms. Schaefer explained that there were two different closure standards; one for shell fishing and another for swimming. Discussion followed.

Mr. D’Andrea suggested that the Shellfish Commission members speak with Mr. McCloster about this issue. He then said he had pointed out to the Mayor that if the water quality was not safe, then the Harbor was not safe. He concluded by saying he applauded Ms. Schaefer for bringing Mr. Callahan from the Health Department, Mr. Alvord from DPW and others in the same room to discuss this issue.

Ms. Schaefer said that there was some discussion about the notification process and whether or not the notices were posted properly. She also reported that one of the participants at the Water Quality meeting had brought plastic bags of water samples from near the pipe in questions.

Ms. Schaefer reported that there had been a \$2,000 check from NRG Energy for the intern program. Donations have also been received from the Shellfish Commission and another agency.

Plans and Recommendations – There is no report at this time, but Mr. Mobilia said that he would be scheduling a meeting in the near future.

Waterfront Advisory – Mr. Griffin said that he had submitted a report electronically. He then gave a very quick summary of the report to the Commission members. He added that the number of boaters docking at the Dunavan Center has increased. Harbor Master Griffin believes this is because of the improved rest rooms and the availability of washers, dryers and electrical hook ups.

Harbor Master/ Harbor Manager – No deposit this month, but it is anticipated that the revenues have increased, which brings the final numbers into line with was projected with the increase in fees.

Harbor Master Griffin also reminded the Commission members to mark their calendars with the upcoming harbor events.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE HARBOR MASTER/ HARBOR MANAGER’S REPORT AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. CALLAHAN SECONDED**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A brief discussion followed about whether or not more of an effort should be made to advertise the updated facilities.

Newsletter/Web site – No report

STAFF REPORTS

Consultant – No report.

APPROVAL OF JULY 2010 MINUTES

The following corrections were noted:

Page 5, under **REPORTS – Dredging**, paragraph 2, line 6: please change “with the Connecticut Management went well.” To “with the Connecticut Harbor Management Association went well.”

Page 6, under **Water Quality/Watershed Initiative**, paragraph 2, line 2: please strike the following text: “where the Water Quality teams are not allowed to go.”

**** MR. CALLAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 2010 MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**

**** DR. PINTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Harbor Master Griffin said that he regretted missing the last meeting but the dinner at Sofia's was wonderful

Mr. Frank commented that August 10th Council meeting, The following resolution was approved on the consent calendar:

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH MALCOLM PIRNIE, INC. TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING AND TESTING SERVICES IN RELATION TO THE DREDGING PORTIONS OF THE MEADOW STREET SALT MARSH AND FOR DREDGING AT THE CITY OUTFALL PIPE LOCATED AT NORWEST MARINE, FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$9,500. ACCOUNT NO. 09094027-5777-C0440

Discussion followed about this project and whether it would fall under the charge of the Harbor Management Commission.

Mr. Johnson pointed out the dock at the end of Third Street was now filled in and the dock is now sitting on the mud.

Mr. D'Andrea said that he would like start working on the State of the Harbor Meeting in advance and requested volunteers. It is also time to think about nominations for the David S. Dunavan Award.

Mr. D'Andrea said that the September meeting will be held at a different location. The final location will be published.

Harbor Master Griffin said that the request for buoy has been passed along to the Coast Guard.

Mr. Callahan suggested that the Harbor Commissioners start thinking about converting the East Basin to a full fledged Marina in the distant future so that the boaters will have slips rather than buoys and increase revenues.

ADJOURNMENT

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MR. CALLAHAN SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services