

Norwalk Harbor Management Commission

Application Review Committee

Minutes: February 16, 2010

Attendees: Pat Clark, chair; Henry Palau; Tony DøAndrea; CT Harbormaster Mike Griffin; Geoff Steadman (consultant); Kirk Stirland (Norwalk YC); Brad Simmons (Norwalk YC); Dr. John Pinto (7:50); Fred Abberley (Norwalk Marine Ferry terminal).

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm

1. 2010-01: Norwalk Yacht Club, Nathan Hale Rd, South Norwalk DEP # 200903994

COP application to CT DEP and PGP application to ACOE by existing yacht club for two items:

A: to renew previously permitted mooring field for up to 152 moorings on the existing footprint

B. to modify an existing 16 x 64 float to a 12 x 30 float accessed from existing ramp and to install a 12 x 60 float positioned directly alongside to serve the junior sailing program. The combined floats will be anchored by 4 pilings; no float or vessel will rest on the bottom.

Separately, the applicant requests that the renewal of the mooring permit be extended from a 5 year interval to permanent, or for 10 years. A discussion followed, with concerns expressed about neighboring property owners and clubs.

The COP application for parts A and B were found consistent with the Plan; the vote was 3-0-0. A meeting is planned at a later date with the operators of the large managed mooring fields to discuss permitting.

Comments due to DEP by March 1, 2010

2. 2007-022 Revised: Michael Gray, 30 Shorehaven Road, East Norwalk DEP #200700249-SB

CT DEP Notice of Tentative Determination to approve a revised application for work in Cokenoe Harbor at a private residence. Drawings dated 9/2/08; the work includes retention of an existing, permitted timber pier and aluminum ramp; modification of existing, permitted 8 x 12.5 float to 8øx 20ø the float and attached vessel will rest on a piling supported bench system that includes 4 timber float stops 12ø above the substrate. Shellfish Commission offers no objection. In addition, the applicant seeks to remove an existing helical mooring to the north.

The application was found consistent with the Plan by 3-0-0.

Comments due to DEP by March 7, 2010

3. Fred Abberley, preliminary discussion of Norwalk Ferry Terminal

The rules were suspended to allow Mr. Abberley the opportunity to discuss a proposal for

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(Norwalk Ferry Terminal, cont)

the establishment of seasonal ferry service from New York to Martha's Vineyard with a stop in Norwalk on weekends from late May to October. Specifically, the vessel would arrive at 5 pm Friday for about 30 minutes, then return about 9 pm on Sunday, also for about 30 minutes. The jet-powered vessel is 127ø long, 35ø beam; and draws 6ø at rest, about 3.5ø under way at speed. Top speeds are approximately 31 knots.

Initially the vessel would take on and discharge passengers at the southern end of the Norwalk Cove Marina fuel dock. The fuel dock would be shut down for the 30 minute stopover; no vessel could take on fuel during that time. The proposed plan is to utilize the Peckø Ledge entrance to the harbor to avoid congestion in the long channel leading west. The ferry would travel at reduced speed while in the waters of Norwalk Harbor to avoid creating damage to either other marine traffic or to natural resources, including shellfish resources.

If the project is viable, the company would construct a permanent berthing area south of the fuel dock and north of the mega-dock at Norwalk Cove; this would include installation of pilings and/or dolphins plus a ramp to allow boarding via the bow of the vessel.

A lengthy discussion followed with the committee expressing concerns about shellfish resources, shutting down the fuel dock, and the ability to bring visitors into the greater South Norwalk community. Mr. Abberley made note of all concerns expressed and is meeting with City officials to further pursue the possibility of establishing this service.

4. 90 Sono Landing Associates, LLC, 20 Marshall St, So Norwalk DEP #200800255-SJ

CT DEP Notice of Tentative Determination to approve and Notice of Intent to Waive Public Hearing for work to install a stone mattress, a ramp, and a rowing float for marine commercial use. This proposal was reviewed by NHMC in June 2009 with drawings dated 5/16/2009 and found consistent with the Plan. The Committee recommends that our previous finding stand.

Comments due March 24, 2010

5. 2010-02: Hillard Bloom Shellfish, Inc., 132 Water Street, So Norwalk DEP #200203648-SJ

CT DEP Notice of Tentative Determination to approve an application to install floats for marine commercial use at the same address. The Draft Permit shows the proposed installation of four 2.5ø x 10ø floats perpendicular to an existing long float that runs parallel to the Federal Channel Line. 8 boats ranging from 16ø to 20ø would be berthed; the finger floats are to stabilize the

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(Hillard Bloom, cont)

boats, which currently use stern hooks, and to provide safer access from the boats to the dock. Boats are in place now, and apparently have been there for a long time. As shown on drawings dated June, 2003, the waterward end of the closest finger would be just over 10øset back from the Federal Channel; the berthed boats would be at the Federal Channel Line or slightly set back from it. In 2003, Army Corps of Engineers issued a Programmatic General Permit for this application. The Harbor Management Plan recommends a 20øsetback from the line unless compelling reasons exist to modify that.

A lengthy discussion followed, including questions about the 8 year old application date; concerns about the boats being at or on the Federal Channel Line; and that the Commission has never seen this application and has only drawings to review at this time.

The Committee voted 3-0-0 to table any recommendation on this application pending more information. Geoff Steadman will seek an extension to the comment period to allow a more informative review.

Comments are due March 13, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Pat Clark,

Chair