

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 28, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Tony D’Andrea, Chair; Henry Palau, Tony Mobilia,
Jack Callahan, Pat Clark, Dr. John Pinto, John Romano

STAFF: Michael Griffin, Harbor Master; Geoff Steadman, Consultant

OTHERS: Peter Johnson, Shellfish Commission; John Frank

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. D’Andrea called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. D’Andrea called the roll, and stated that the members as listed above were in attendance.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mr. D’Andrea introduced Mr. Peer Johnson as the new Chair of the shellfish Commission and welcomed him to the Harbor Management Commission meeting. Ms. Clark asked for his e-mail address to include him on the agendas for the Application Review Committee.

Mr. D’Andrea said that it was a very busy docket this month, lots of interactions with the DEP and he thanked all members of the Committee for their involvement and support. He reported that he was asked to give a presentation on the Dredging Project update and needs a final accounting of the expenditures for the third quarter. He added that there was correspondence regarding Cedar Hammock, and he has lots of work to do on this and it will be added to next month’s agenda.

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ms. Clark stated that they had received the full application and information as listed from last month’s report on the CAM referral from Planning & Zoning as follows:

NHMC Application #2010-04 – COP - CAM

Sea Streak, LLC—44 Long Neck Point Road, Darien.
Proposed Ferry Terminal and Service at Norwalk Cove Marina.

Details: Proposed seasonal use for passenger ferry terminal at existing dock at Norwalk Cove Marina. Approximately 100 passengers picked up Friday afternoon and discharged Sunday evening, with no change to existing in-water structures, bulk heads, docks, pilings, etc. It was added that 100 parking spaces be leased from Norwalk Cove, away from the Sunset Grill Restaurant and away from the marina users dock.

Ms. Clark added that the proposal is consistent with Planning & Zoning requirements, and drawings by the surveyor were presented including a copy of the survey, which was most appreciated. She added that when the vessel is in the channel there is still 100' across the channel, when the 34' vessel is in the channel.

Harbormaster Griffin asked what the size of the ferry was, and Ms. Clark responded that the vessel was 126-135 ft. long x 34 ft. wide, jet powered. He added that he has sat in at Shellfish Commission meetings and read a portion of their minutes which stated that the Sea Streak management has agreed to keep away from the oyster beds, and that the DEP has required this for their permits. Ms. Clark added that additionally, to address the SFC concerns, the vessel will stop at the West Channel and turn, then back into the fuel docks, rather than trying to turn around in the channel. She added that Planning & Zoning will have a separate public hearing in early May on this item.

**** MS. CLARK MOVED BASED ON THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND THE INCLUSION OF APPLICABLE INFORMATION, THE APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO THE COMMISSION:**

**THE NHMC APPLICATION #2010-04 –SEA STREAK, LLC—
44 LONG NECK POINT ROAD, DARIEN, FOR A PROPOSED FERRY
TERMINAL AND SERVICE AT NORWALK COVE MARINA
IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PLAN WITH THE CONDITION THAT:**

- 1. THE VESSEL ENTERS AND LEAVES THE NORWALK HARBOR UTILIZING THE WEST CHANNEL BETWEEN THE LIGHT HOUSE AND NORWALK COVE MARINA.**
- 2. THE COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RE-EVALUATE THE PROPSAL AT SUCH A TIME AS IT MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE PERMITTING AUTHORITY, MODIFIED, GO TO PUBLIC NOTICE, OR WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.**

**** MR. PALAU SECONDED
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NHMC Application #2010-05 – 03792 DEP Permit CT00084 - ID103-070
King Industries, Science Road, Norwalk
Renewal of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system – CT DEP
Notice of Tentative Determination. Location: Norwalk River.

Details:

**** MS. CLARK MOVED BASED ON THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND THE INCLUSION OF APPLICABLE INFORMATION, THE APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO THE COMMISSION:**

THE NHMC APPLICATION #2010-05 – 03792 PERMIT CT00084 ID103-070 FOR KING INDUSTRIES, SCIENCE ROAD, NORWALK FOR RENEWAL OF NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM AT NORWALK RIVER IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PLAN WITH THE CONDITION THAT:

1. IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMISSION THAT NO CHANGE TO THE APPLICANT’S EXISTING DISCHARGE CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS ARE BEING PROPOSED AND THAT IT HAS BEN DETERMINED BY THE DEP THAT THE EXISTING DISCHARGE CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF NORWALK HARBOR.

**** MR. MOBILIA SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Clark stated that the next application reflected completion of debris removal then following the recent storm, further emergency work was needed for further removal of debris, and consequently they have to ask for re-approval, keeping in mind there is no change when compared to original drawings.

NHMC Application #2010-06 COP– Michael Gray, 30 Shorehaven Road, Location: Waters of Cockenoe Harbor, to proceed with proposed work at a seawall ramp, timber pier, float, and pilings that NHMC found consistent in February 2010. The CDP follows storm damage to previous structures.

**** MS. CLARK MOVED BASED ON THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND THE INCLUSION OF APPLICABLE INFORMATION, THE APPLICATION REVIEW**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING MOTION TO THE COMMISSION:

THAT NHMC APPLICATION #2010-06 COP– MICHAEL GRAY, 30 SHOREHAVEN ROAD, LOCATION: WATERS OF COCKENOE HARBOR, TO PROCEED WITH PROPOSED WORK AT A SEAWALL RAMP, TIMBER PIER, FLOAT, AND PILINGS THAT NHMC FOUND CONSISTENT IN FEBRUARY 2010 AND THE CDP FOLLOWS STORM DAMAGE TO PREVIOUS STRUCTURES.

IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PLAN WITH THE CONDITION THAT THE COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RE-EVALUATE THE PROPSAL AT SUCH A TIME AS IT MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE PERMITTING AUTHORITY, MODIFEID, GO TO PUBLIC NOTICE, OR WHEN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

- ** MR. PALAU SECONDED**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Clark stated that they had received a COP application to the DEP as a referral from Planning & Zoning for removal of the footbridge on Tokeneke in Rowayton. She added that this falls outside of the purview of the NHMC, and it should be the Five Mile River Commission or the DPW. She then asked Mr. D’Andrea if a letter from the NMHC should be written, and he stated that the response should be given as “no comment.”

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT

There was no report from Planning and Zoning. Mr. D’Andrea stated that they did ask for a representative from Sea Streak to attend the meeting to answer any questions.

REPORTS

Dredging – Dr. Pinto said that there was no formal report, but it was worthy to note that the HMC has been asked to meet with the DEP to discuss the dredging project and the status of the \$3.5 million.

Mr. Palau noted that he has written a letter to Senator Lieberman’s office on issues and he received a response from the office that lists the many projects that are currently in the works for the state. He added that he looked at the website that was provided in the letter and was impressed with the hundreds of requests for millions of dollars from the state.

Harbormaster Griffin stated that he has met with the Connecticut Harbormaster's Association and they have been deeply involved with the Army Corps of Engineers who have been asked to make the dredging equipment more affordable. He added that the as President of the Long Island Council he has sent a letter to the statewide stakeholders group and a letter of support from the CHMA. He added that they will sponsor a workshop with neighboring states to address this issue with a speaker from the DEP and EPA in June. He added that he will be meeting with the Coast Guard Management meeting in New Hampshire including members from Save the Sound, Maritime coalition and Dredging Project Coordinators to develop a game plan so that they are not blindsided with this project. He added that "hats off" to Dr. Pinto is in order for all his work done on behalf of the City of Norwalk for this project.

Finance – Mr. Cebrian was not in attendance, and Mr. D'Andrea stated that there will be a complete report next month. Mr. D'Andrea clarified that he will make sure that the benefactors are in line with their support for the NHMC plan.

Boating and Harbor Safety – Mr. Palau stated that there was no report, other than he would like set up a meeting with users of the Norwalk Harbor, but it has been delayed to the City's focus on the budget. He added that the buoy off Sheffield Island is not visible and Ms. Clark agreed that it is a hazard. .

Water Quality – There was no Watershed Initiative report. Mr. D'Andrea stated that until a replacement for Mr. Harden is approved, the role will be assumed by him. He added that he will be asking the Mayor to reinstate the Water Quality Committee and ask the group to suggest or recommend candidates for appointments to serve on the NHMC.

Plans and Recommendations – Mr. Mobilia stated that there was no report from the Plans and Recommendations Committee, but he will work on scheduling a meeting to invite the members of the Common Council to attend the workshop as mentioned by the Harbormaster.

Waterfront Advisory - Harbor Master Griffin provided his written report and stated that the members should have received it by e-mail as well.

He stated that the 2010 DEP Veteran's Park Pump Out Grant under the terms of the Clean Vessel Program was presented to the Recreation and Parks committee and was moved with approval to the Common Council for approval.

Harbormaster Griffin added that the Boating Center opened up the 20120 boating season, including restrooms, fresh water and dock electricity are available for public use.

He added that it is opened weekends only until May 24 when the beaches are open for the season, and fee changes affected the out-of-town season pass, present cost is \$140 up from \$135.

He added that he is looking to hire a student intern to work on Saturdays and Sundays with the water quality responsibilities, and he will accept recommendations from the commission members.

Newsletter/Website – Mr. Romano asked the Board members to resend articles to him to re-circulate to the members for comment and inclusion with the next newsletter. Mr. Mobilia added that articles about rowing safety in view of the increase usage of the channel from the people with the Norwalk Rowing Association.

STAFF REPORTS

Harbor Master/Harbor Manager

Harbor Master's Report - Harbor Master Griffin reviewed this written report. and presented copies to the members. He highlighted the financial summary covering 1 deposits totaling \$5,490 representing total to date for the season at \$14,035 with a breakdown by club of the permits and payment fees collected. He pointed out that he attended four meetings this past month regarding the Harbor, which are listed on his report, and noted 449 customer service phone calls for the February/March period, mostly related to new permit fees and new mooring requests, which totaled 66 hours).

Mr. D'Andrea said if no objection, the report would be accepted, and hearing none, the report was accepted.

Consultant – No report was presented, but Mr. Steadman requested permission to apply for a grant to fund the production of a fiberglass sign to be placed at the Vets Park walkway near the harbor dock area, similar to the signs at Calf Pasture Beach. Mr. D'Andrea asked what size this would be and Mr. Steadman replied a 24" x 36" angled fiberglass type of permanent sign similar to what is used for Hope Dock and Sheffield Island. The Harbormaster suggested it be a collaborative effort with the Shellfish Commission, and added that he would be able to get a letter of support from the Mike Mocciae with the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs.

- ** MS. CLARK MOVED TO APPROVE A GRANT PROPOSAL WHEREBY AN APPLICATION BY MR. STEADMAN WILL BE DONE ON BEHALF OF THE NHMC TO FUND A SIGN TO BE INSTALLED BY THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2010 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. CALLAHAN CLARK SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2010 MINUTES

The following corrections were noted:

Mr. D'andrea asked to correct on page 1: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 not 7:00 p.m.

On Page 4, Harbormaster Griffin requested under Plans and Recommendations, the first bullet point to change the word running to managing. On page 5, change Manager to Master under Staff Reports. On Page 6, paragraph 5, change "this may be the time for him to" to "there may come a time for him to step down..." Also, change roll to role further on in that sentence.

Dr. Pinto requested to delete the entire sentence at the bottom of page 4, and on page 5 under the motion to approve the February minutes, to change Ms. Clark seconded to Dr Pinto.

- ** MR. PALAU MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2010 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MS. CLARK SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mobilia presented John Frank with a plaque as an acknowledgement from the NHMC for his years of service on the Shellfish Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. PALAU MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MR. HARDEN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Norwalk Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
April 28, 2010
Page 7