

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 26, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Tony D’Andrea, Chair; Tony Mobilia, Jose Cebrian (7:45 p.m.)
Jack Callahan, Pat Clark, Dr. John Pinto, John Romano

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

OTHERS: Peter Johnson, Shellfish Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. D’Andrea called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked Harbor Master Griffin to lead the Commission in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mr. D’Andrea called the roll, and stated that the members as listed above were in attendance, Mr. Palau was excused as he is out of town, and Mr. Cebrian and would be late.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mr. D’Andrea said that it was a very busy docket this month, with lots of correspondence and documents relative to with the Cedar Hammock application. He added that a letter from the Mayor to Commissioner Marrella, and he requested that it be added to the end of the meeting agenda.

He reported that the DEP continues to ask for a final accounting of the expenditures for the Army Corps of Engineers and he is trying to get Mr. Hamilton for mutual cooperation between the departments.

Mr. D’Andrea stated that there was a submission of two names by the Nominating Committee to the Mayor for a nomination of the replacement of Mr. Harden to the Commission, but he could not announce the names until approval by the Mayor, and he will keep the members posted with the outcome.

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Ms. Clark stated that they had received only one application from a CAM referral from Planning & Zoning as follows:

NHMC Application #2010-07 – Cedar Hammocks, LLC, 433 Ridgefield Road, Wilton

Ms. Clark stated that this was a little tiny island, East Northeast of Tavern Island, west of Village Creek used to store kayaks and occasional camp outs. She stated that there is currently a dilapidated shed in need of repair or replacement and the applicant has requested to build a seasonal small structure of 350 sq. ft. with a deck, a small ramp and partial float with no work to be done below the high tide line.

Mr. D’Andrea asked how high and Ms. Clark responded that it was within the 17 foot flood elevation. Mr. Callahan asked how many rooms, and Ms. Clark responded it was one room with no plumbing, but would use a rain water collection, cistern toilet system.

Harbormaster Griffin stated that it is a solid structure in a big rock pile of crusted short line that represents an excellent improvement for safety. Mr. D’Andrea asked if this was a permitted dock, and Ms. Clark responded yes, and the Shellfish Commission has reviewed the application and had no objections.

**** 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 #2010-07 – CEDAR HAMMOCKS, LLC, ROAD, 433 RIDGEFIELD ROAD, WILTON IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PLAN WITH THE CONDITION THAT:

- 1. 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. ROMANO SECONDED
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Clark stated that there were two permits issued on approved applications, one for Vantage Point, and all was within the drawings for the permit, which shows clearly where

the vessels can be birthed, and where passengers can be dropped off and picked up along with the approved signage.

Ms. Clark added that the other permit was for 490 Water Street for docking of the rowing pontoon boats, and all was within the approved plans.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT

There was no report from Planning and Zoning.

REPORTS

Dredging – Dr. Pinto said that there was no formal report, but it was worthy to note that the CHMA will sponsor a workshop with neighboring states to address this issue with a speaker from the DEP and EPA in June.

Finance – Mr. Cebrian presented his report and was not in attendance, and stated that he continues to look for any outstanding expenses that should be included.

Boating and Harbor Safety – Harbor Master Griffin stated that in Mr. Palau's absence that he has made a connection with the Coast Guard about the Sheffield Island matter and is still trying to get a meeting with the rowing groups on the following issues:

1. Radios on the coach boats.
2. Education on rules with other vessels.
3. Navigation channel procedures
4. Training – Peach Island vicinity – South Norwalk Boat Club.

Mr. Callahan asked why there are no life jackets required, and Harbor Master Griffin replied that they are supposed to, and it is against regulation. Mr. D'Andrea stated that education is an important goal that they should working on, and they will get there.

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

Waterfront Advisory - Harbor Master Griffin provided his written report and stated that the members should have received it by e-mail as well. He added that he has met with Papafish, out of Stamford, and the agreement will provide additional parking revenue for the 2010 season.

He added that an intern has been hired to work on Saturdays and Sundays with the water quality responsibilities.

Newsletter/Website – Mr. Romano thanked the members who have submitted articles and hopefully the newsletter will be out soon on a timely basis.

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 deposits totaling \$11,861.50 representing total to date for the season at \$25,897 with a breakdown by club of the permits and payment fees collected. He pointed out that he attended eight meetings this past month regarding the Harbor, which are listed on his report, and noted 419 customer service phone calls for the period, mostly related to new permit fees and new mooring requests.

He added that St. Luke's Rowing Regatta was held on May 1 in Veteran's Park and no incidents were noted.

- ** **MR. CALLAHAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT FOR MAY 2010 AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** **MR. CEBRIAN SECONDED.**
- ** **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Consultant – Mr. Steadman stated that the grant application was under way to fund the production of the signs to be placed at the Vets Park walkway near the harbor dock area, and the cost was approximately \$9,600.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2010 MINUTES

Ms. Clark asked to correct on page 1: Peter not Peer Johnson. Page 2, in condition one of the motion, add "GREENS LEDGE" before Lighthouse, and on Page 3, in condition 1 of the motion, correct ben to been. On the last sentence on page 5, change 20120 to 2010.

On Page 4, Dr. Pinto requested "Army Corps of Engineers" replace DEP under the Dredging Report.

Harbormaster Griffin requested on page 6, second sentence, replace President of the Long Island Council with Chairman of the Western Council of Long Island Sound. In the third sentence replace "they" with CHMA. Mr. D'Andrea requested that under Water Quality

change reinstate to reconstitute. Under Plans and Recommendations, the last word should be changed from Harbor Master to Mr. Mobilia.

- ** MR. CALLAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28, 2010 MINUTES AS AMENDED.**
- ** MR. ROMANO SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. D'Andrea presented a copy of a letter from Mayor Moccia to Commissioner Amey Marrella of the DEP, regarding the processing of a coastal permit, and a discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. ROMANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MR. CALLAHAN SECONDED.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox
Telesco Secretarial Services