

**Five Mile River Commission
December 4 , 2014 Meeting Minutes
The Boardroom, Rowayton Community Center
33 Highland Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853**

Commission members in attendance:

Matthew Marion, Chairman
John deRegt, Commissioner, Electronically
Dirk Leasure, Commissioner, Electronically
William Jessup, Commissioner
Ray Meurer, Harbor Superintendent

Guests:

Steve Bartush, Norwalk Resident

Matthew Marion took the chair at 7:34 p.m.

Mr. Marion confirmed that the minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting had been unanimously approved electronically by the Commissioners and then filed electronically with the City of Norwalk and Town of Darien. He also noted that public notice of the December 2014 FMRC meeting had been timely provided and that the agenda was timely filed with Darien and Norwalk.

The following meeting schedule was unanimously approved for 2015: February 19, March 26, May 7, June 11, July 23, September 10, October 22 and December 3. All meeting will be held in the Boardroom of the Rowayton Community Center beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Commission reviewed and approved a proposed new dock layout for White Bridge Marina, also known as All Seasons Marine Works, at 167 Rowatyon Avenue, subject to the condition that no part of any boat docked at the marina may extend closer to the channel than the western-most point of the marina's pilings, at least five feet from the eastern boundary of the federal channel.

Next, the Commission commenced its review of a new dock application proposed for the residence at 123 Five Mile River Road. The application contemplates the replacement of an unused old dock with a substantially larger new dock, the installation of a boat lift, and the authorization of an existing sea wall. Concerns raised during the Commission's discussion included the length of the dock, proximity to the federal channel, other possible site locations for the dock, the size and location of the docks at adjacent properties, and the environmental impact of the project. The Commission will continue its review of the application, and may conduct a site visit, before contacting the owners for additional information.

The Harbor Superintendent then provided a report to the Commission about the temporary storage of docks/floats in the River during October and November, and noted

that the designated temporary storage area was not used at all by the marine services providers. Boatworks used several moorings at the mouth of the River for temporary storage, and the other service providers and marinas brought docks and floats directly into marinas from their off-river sites. In addition, Mr. Marion noted the DEEP had confirmed that, at least for the present, it will not require that marinas obtain prior approval of oversized (100 sq. ft. plus) docks and floats for temporary storage in the River.

Year-to-date income and expense reports as of December 4, 2014 prepared by Tammy Papp, the Commission's administrative assistant, list income at \$51,350 and expenses of \$10,746.

Finally, the Harbor Superintendent reported the following:

- There were no boats on moorings in the River as of December 1st, in keeping with the prohibition barring the moorage of boats in the River between December 1st and the end of February for safety and environmental reasons.
- A number of boaters who keep their boats at docks in the River did not pay the 2014 harbor use fee, despite repeated mailings, emails and phone calls by the Harbor Superintendent and Assistant to pay the fee. Mr. Marion directed the Harbor Superintendent to provide a listing of nonpayers by marina and plans to meet with the various marinas, along with the Harbor Superintendent, in order to solicit their support in collecting the 2014 fees.
- Boatworks and All Seasons Marine Works have agreed to include the harbor use fee on their bills to customers for summer slips. The Commissioners commended both marinas for assisting in this process.
- Mooring permit renewals for the 2015 season will be emailed and mailed to boat owners beginning in mid-December.
- The Commission's 2014 annual report to the Darien and Norwalk is due by the end of January 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 8: 24 p.m.

The next Commission meeting date is February 19, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Meurer
Harbor Superintendent