

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 22, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Jose Cebrian, Chair; Tony Mobilia, Bill Gardella, John Romano, Dr. Pinto

STAFF: Geoff Steadman, Consultant

OTHERS: Matthew Rokowski, Roberge Associates Project Manager; Paul Saviano, Debora Goldstein

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mr. Cebrian called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Cebrian asked Mr. Romano to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Cebrian called the roll. A quorum was present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Mr. Cebrian said that there had been a request from a concerned citizen about erosion on Grassy Island. He said that it was a city owned island. Mr. Steadman explained since it was a city owned island, the City would have to apply for a DEEP permit for erosion control structures. Dr. Pinto said that there were possibilities for DOT funding for this type of project. Discussion followed.

Mr. Cebrian said that he had sent notes to Mr. Santella and Harbor Master Griffin to take a tour of the moorings in the Harbor.

Mr. Romano asked what the hold up with the stickers for the mooring permits. Mr. Cebrian said that he was not sure. He said that he wanted to take a tour of the mooring fields in the near future with either Harbor Master Griffin or Mr. D'Andrea.

STAFF REPORTS:

Consultant – Mr. Steadman said that he would be providing information on various items later in the meeting.

Harbor Master Report - Mr. Cebrian distributed copies of Harbor Master Griffin's report were distributed. (See attached) Mr. Cebrian said that he had received the

documents for Item #4 on the Harbor Master's Report and delivered them to Mr. Mobilia.

REPORTS

Waterfront Advisory - Mr. Cebrian distributed copies of Harbor Master Griffin's report. (See attached report)

Bridges Committee Report - Mr. Mobilia said that a letter had been sent to Mr. Cutler in the State requesting a meeting with him to discuss the drainage of the I-95 bridge into the Norwalk River. (See attached) Mr. Mobilia said that Mr. Cutler had acknowledged receipt of the letter and will be responding with a written letter. Mr. Mobilia said that he had contacted Mr. Hamilton about the bridges and Mr. Hamilton replied that this was a very busy time and he would be in touch with him in the future.

Mr. Mobilia said that he had received an email regarding the Walk Bridge from the Coast Guard. (See attached email and color graphic) The Coast Guard has created a new chart for the proposed Walk (RR) and Stroffolino (Rt. 136) bridge openings. Mr. Mobilia pointed out that the new proposals did not factor in the tides. (See attached) One of the barge companies has commented that the new schedule would impact their business and limit their ability to enter and depart in the Harbor.

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dr. Pinto reported that all the letters regarding the previous permits have been sent out.

a. Discussion of the Norwalk Visitor's Dock proposal

Dr. Pinto said that there had been a recent meeting about the Visitor's Dock application. It will be issued a COP application. There are no new encroachments and has not increased its footprint.

Dr. Pinto then distributed copies of a schematic showing the current piling locations and proposed piling plan. He said that the pilings would have to be driven about 120 feet through mud before they could be anchored in sand or rock.

Regarding the parking lot run off, the parking lot will be raised by 2 feet and 8 inches. There will be a berm and some filtration before the water enters the river. Discussion followed.

Dr. Pinto then read the letter the Committee had written to the DEEP about the proposal for 122 pilings that would replace the current 27 piling that are in place now. Mr. Steadman pointed out that the plans do not include the pump out station. Mr. Romano commented that the proposed design would be able to handle wind speeds of 100 to 110

mph with vessels docked. Discussion followed about what the docks were being designed for and the details of the pilings.

Ms. Debora Goldstein asked about the dimension of the proposed plan were done to accommodate a larger vessel. Mr. Rokowski explained that the docks would handle both recreational and commercial vessels.

The discussion moved to the kind of criteria that the docks were being designed to handle. Mr. Rokowski said that the number of piling were necessary to keep the docks in place in a 100 year storm with 100 mph plus winds. Mr. Cebrian asked why the docks would be cut loose. Mr. Rokowski explained that the loose dock would become floating debris.

Mr. Steadman said that the application was a substantive change and a new structure. Mr. Cebrian said that he felt that this was overkill. Mr. Gardella pointed out that this was a visitor's dock.

A question was asked about simply replacing the current floats. Mr. Rokowski said that it wasn't something his company could do and pointed out that the current pilings had moved in the recent past. Dr. Pinto replied that movement was because a large boat had been moored to the dock during a major storm.

Mr. Steadman said that he would recommend the parking lot project be done and suggested that the Commission request to have the new dock structure submitted as a separate application. He added that the public had not had a chance to comment on the project. Mr. Romano pointed out that when something was overbuilt, it would last. Discussion followed.

Mr. Romano pointed out that the parking lot was Phase 1 and the second phase would be the pilings and docks. Mr. Rokowski explained that the design criteria was determined by wind loads and wave load guideline charts in manuals. The calculations are based on wind, location and surge.

Mr. Steadman said that the Commission can make recommendation, which would be binding, according to the State. He added that it was not the job of the Commission to get a project approved, but to review the project fairly and make a recommendation. The DEEP will make the final decision. The COP process does not allow for public comment. He also reminded everyone it was not substantial maintenance but a complete replacement. Discussion followed.

Mr. Steadman said that he had spoken about this to some Storm Water Project people and they encouraged him to have the project done as thoroughly as possible since it was a major project.

Dr. Pinto said that he would adjust the letter to the DEEP with the changes as discussed by the Commission.

Mr. Paul Saviano, a former member of the Harbor Commission, came forward and said that he was disappointed that the public had not been invited to comment on the design of the parking lot project and the launching ramps. He said he missed out on the discussion and would like to be part of future discussions.

He also said that the angle of the current launching ramp should be steeper so the vehicles do not enter the water during a launch. He added that the flow of traffic in the parking lot was poor when someone launches and later when the boat is retrieved and reloaded back onto trailer.

Mr. Steadman asked if there would be CAM review required. Mr. Rokowski said that they believe it would be required. Mr. Steadman said that it would give the public an opportunity to comment.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE LETTER TO THE DEEP AS AMENDED AND WITH THE ADDITION OF THE RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PUMP OUT STATION.**

**** MR. ROMANO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Pinto said that he had spoken to Mr. Bloom about the kelp farm and that he was looking into the viability of the kelp uses, such as food, biofuel and medicinal uses. Dr. Pinto gave an overview of the discussion of both the positive and negative aspects.

Finance - No report.

Mooring and Harbor Safety - Mr. Mobilia said the Committee was moving forward. The committee is trying to bring Harbor View into compliance. He said that he would turn the applications over to Mr. Santella for processing.

Plans and Recommendations - No report.

Water Quality - Mr. Steadman said that the interns are working and a problem has been identified at Moody's Lane. Also a response has been prepared regarding the recent Harbor Report Card article. Mr. Cebrian said that Mr. D'Andrea had suggested that the Commission have before and after bridge projects water analysis done.

Newsletter/Website - No report

Shellfish Commission - No report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was no action taken on the minutes at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Pinto said that other than the concerns about the erosion on Grassy Island. Dr. Pinto said that there were also concerns about policing of the trash on the site.

Mr. Saviano said that there had been an Harbor Management meeting listed in the newspaper for 6:30 p.m.. Dr. Pinto explained that he had sent a notice to the City Clerk about that committee meeting cancellation. The meeting had been moved to Monday, which was published. However the cancellation of the 6:30 meeting for this evening was apparently not published by The Hour.

Mr. Saviano said that there was inconsistent speed limit signage. The sign is missing from the Number 10 tower. However, there are four speed buoys in a line in one area. Mr. Saviano suggested a reconfiguration of the speed buoys. Mr. Cebrian said that he would look into this when he goes to inspect the mooring fields. If Harbor Safety is an issue, then the Commission should consider this.

OLD BUSINESS.

Mr. Steadman said that the CT Port Authority took effect on July 1st. The statement of purposed emphasizes the movement of cargo. Mr. Steadman then gave an overview of the new Authority's purview. Dr. Pinto said that it would be important to follow up on this. There will be a meeting of the Harbor Management Board on July 29th. Discussion followed.

Mr. Steadman said that a letter is being written to the Redevelopment Agency regarding Water Street developments.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GARDELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. MOBILIA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
July 22, 2015