

**CITY OF NORWALK
STRATEGIC HARBOR PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
VIA TELECONFERENCE
MAY 27, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Matt Gifford, Dick Harris, Alan Kibbe, Chris MacDonnell, Jason Patlis, Jerry Toni, Gary Wetmore

STAFF: Steve Kleppin

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kleppin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The consultants introduced themselves.

STATUS AND UPDATES

Indigo River provided an update on their progress since the last meeting in February. They hosted the first stakeholder interview, completed a draft of baseline conditions and opportunities, and began conducting focus groups with harbor business and avid harbor users.

AUDIT ON CURRENT HARBOR USES PRESENTATION

Representatives from HR&A (sub-consultant) gave a presentation of the existing harbor conditions. Demographic and industry analysis findings were reviewed and found that the harbor area functions as a job hub with more commuters coming in than out. Indigo River presented data on water-dependent jobs in the harbor area, showing that many jobs fall below the living wage mark. They highlighted that many recreation destinations in Norwalk receive a high percentage of visitors from outside the city, with only about a third coming from Norwalk residents. The presented findings focused on environmental conditions, navigation challenges, and public access points.

NEXT STEPS: FEEDBACK AND FOCUS GROUPS

They plan to continue stakeholder outreach, conduct additional studies on mooring plans and street ends, and issue a final report with recommendations in September.

Members raised questions about data collection, zoning regulations, and the impact of sea level rise, which were discussed.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mooring infrastructure improvement, particularly for deep draft sailboats and commercial vessels, and including representatives from Manresa Island Corp, were discussed. There was a discussion of data related to visitation at various parks and cultural institutions in Norwalk. The group discussed discrepancies in visitation numbers, as it pertains to out-of-town and in-state visitors.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.