

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 25, 2026  
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

**ATTENDEES:** Alan Kibbe (Chair), Jeff Mangels, Chris MacDonnell, Matt Gifford, Jon Wilkins, Don Remson.

**STAFF:** Amelia Williams.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Kibbe called the regular meeting of the Harbor Management Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. and recited the pledge of allegiance.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Kibbe conducted roll call informally by confirming attendance of all visible participants.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Geoffrey Steadman (did not provide an address) commented on an item from the Commission’s January agenda. He explained his decision not to sign a consultant contract discussed at the prior meeting.

Ms. Lynnelle Jones of 10 Point Road raised concerns regarding the minutes of the January 28, 2026, meeting.

**IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Meeting: January 28, 2026

Mr. Kibbe noted several spelling corrections to the draft minutes and Mr. MacDonnell noted that the minutes failed to reflect a motion and vote that occurred.

**\*\*MR. REMSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2026, REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED.**

**\*\*MR. MANGELS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The minutes of the January 28, 2026, regular meeting were approved as amended.

**V. APPLICATION REVIEW**

A. Pre-Submission Consultation - 17 Mack St

Mr. Matthew Shuler, a licensed professional engineer representing South Norwalk Boat Club at 17 Mack Street, presented the proposed dock expansion project focused on the south side of the South Dock Tree. Mr. Shuler responded to clarifying questions from Commissioner MacDonnell.

Mr. Remson recused himself from discussion and vote due to his position as Vice Commodore of South Norwalk Boat Club.

**\*\* MR. MANGELS MOVED THAT THE PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION APPLICATION FOR DOCK EXPANSION AT 17 MACK IS CONSISTENT WITH THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

**\*\*MR. MACDONNELL SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED. MR. REMSON RECUSED HIMSELF & MR. GIFFORD WAS PRESENT BUT UNABLE TO RESPOND DUE TO TRAVEL / CONNECTION ISSUES.**

#### B. CSPR Referral - 25 Commerce St

Mr. John Hilts addressed the Commission. He stated that the project had been previously reviewed by the Commission as part of a Certificate of Permission application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the current referral is for a Coastal Site Plan Review (CSPR) application to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The work consists of repairing a section of the seawall in kind and in place, with improvements on the landward side including filter fabric for better performance.

**\*\* MR. MACDONNELL MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION FIND THE CSPR REFERRAL APPLICATION FOR SEAWALL REPAIR AT 25 COMMERCE STREET CONSISTENT WITH THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

**\*\*MR. KIBBE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## VI. REPORTS

### A. Chairperson

Mr. Kibbe delivered the Chairperson's report. He noted that this was his final meeting as Chair and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Commission. Mr. Kibbe reviewed the Commission's current membership status and thanked the City of Norwalk for providing email addresses for Commissioners, which simplifies compliance with public records requests.

Mr. Kibbe reported that he attended a recent presentation on the Manresa Wilds project, which Mr. MacDonnell also attended, and discussion ensued. Mr. MacDonnell reported speaking with representatives from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution at the presentation and proposed inviting them to present their work to the Commission.

Mr. Kibbe emphasized the importance of mentoring and knowledge transfer as long-standing commissioners depart. He stressed that all members should actively participate, contribute to committees, and mentor newer commissioners to preserve institutional knowledge and the

Commission's oral history. Discussion ensued regarding the existing onboarding document for new commissioners. Mr. Wilkins confirmed receiving it from Ms. Williams and noted that he found it helpful for baseline information but indicated that interpersonal dynamics and deeper operational details require ongoing learning from experienced members.

Mr. Kibbe reported following up on the Strategic Harbor Plan Study by consultant Indigo River, and discussion ensued regarding the street ends project.

Mr. Remson raised concerns about dredging efforts and hiring a consultant and discussion ensued.

Mr. Kibbe concluded his report, expressing enjoyment in serving as Chair and inviting any final questions or comments.

#### B. Shellfish Commission

No report was given.

#### C. Staff

##### 1. Harbor Master

Mr. Mangels stated that Mr. Lovallo could not attend, but he wanted to say thanks to Charlie Wetmore and Deputy Harbormaster Mike Vinci for breaking up the ice with a push barge.

#### D. Committees

##### 1. Mooring and Harbor Safety

Mr. Mangels presented the report of the Mooring and Harbor Safety Committee.

He reported that the Commission renewed its contract with Dockwa for the 2026 season and discussed the proposal from Edwards Marine for a 100-square-foot floating dock to be stationed just south of the City ramps, across from Ischoda Yacht Club. He also reported that on a harbor safety issue related to a sailboat left on a mooring in the East Basin over the winter. Mr. Mangels concluded with an update on the Troop 222 Eagle Scout project to clean up Grassy Island.

##### 2. Finance

Mr. MacDonnell presented the Finance Committee report. He shared a spreadsheet tracking monthly and annual revenues and expenses for calendar year 2025.

##### 3. Plans and Recommendations

No report was given.

##### 4. Newsletter/Website

No report was given. No committee chair was currently assigned.

##### 5. Water Quality

Mr. Kibbe reported that the Mayor's Water Quality Committee is expected to resume under the new mayor. The Commission will need to designate a representative at the appropriate time.

## **VII. SHORELINE RESTORATION PILOT PROJECT LETTER**

Ms. Williams explained that Grace Piselli had requested a formal letter of support for the Shoreline Restoration Pilot Project presented at the prior meeting.

**\*\*MR. MANGELS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SHORELINE RESTORATION PILOT PROJECT, CONSISTENT WITH THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN AND BENEFICIAL TO NORWALK HARBOR, SHELLFISH, AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.**

**\*\*MR. REMSON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**\*\*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Williams confirmed she would draft and send the letter.

## **VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Kibbe opened the election of officers for the Harbor Management Commission Mr. Gifford, on behalf of the nominating committee, presented the proposed slate:

- Chair: Mr. Jeff Mangels
- Vice-Chair: Mr. MacDonnell
- Secretary: Mr. Wilkins

Mr. Kibbe asked three times whether any members wished to propose an alternate slate.

No additional nominations or alternate slates were proposed.

Mr. Kibbe called the question on the slate presented by the nominating committee.

**\*\* THE COMMISSION VOTED TO APPROVE THE SLATE AS PRESENTED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: MR. MANGELS AS CHAIRMAN, MR. MACDONNELL AS VICE CHAIRMAN, AND MR. WILKINS AS SECRETARY.**

**\*\*THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Mr. Kibbe congratulated the newly elected officers, welcomed them to their roles, and wished them good luck. Mr. Mangels thanked the Commission. Mr. MacDonnell wished the group well and suggested they would have fun in their new positions. Mr. Kibbe expressed that his time as Chair had been wonderful and stated he was pleased to turn over leadership.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*MR. MANGELS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**\*\*THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:22 PM.