

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 22, 2026
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

ATTENDEES: Jeff Mangels, Alan Kibbe, Chris MacDonnell, Kelly Bloom, Matt Gifford, Danielle Kurkjian, Jon Wilkins (6:30).

STAFF: Amelia Williams, Steve Kleppin.

OTHERS: Alix Pauchet, Shay Thorvaldsen, Erman Eruz.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mangels called the April 22, 2026, Harbor Management Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Mangels conducted roll call. Present were Mr. Mangels, Mr. Kibbe, Mr. MacDonnell, Ms. Bloom, Mr. Gifford, and Ms. Kurkjian. A quorum was present with six commissioners.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Diane Lauricella, of Gregory Boulevard, addressed the Commission. She expressed concern that the Strategic Harbor Plan was not ready to forward to the Council and recommended either keeping it within the Harbor Management Commission, holding it, or voting no and requesting revisions. Ms. Lauricella highlighted the importance of land use bordering the harbor, polluted runoff, and marine-based activities. She questioned the absence of certain sites and businesses in the plan.

Ms. Lynnelle Jones, of 10 Point Road, addressed the Commission regarding the Indigo River Strategic Harbor Plan POCD amendment referral. She stated that the report was not consistent with the current approved Harbor Management Plan. She specifically addressed the use of mooring fees to fund title searches and expressed her disapproval of using “harbor area,” and proposed “strategic zones” in lieu of specifying the inner and outer harbor. Ms. Jones also questioned the engagement with the Mayor’s Water Quality Committee and the accuracy of cell phone data used in the report.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

****MR. KIBBE MOVED THAT THE MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 25, 2026, BE ACCEPTED.**

****MR. GIFFORD SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED. ABSTENTIONS – MS. BLOOM AND MS. KURKJIAN (NOT PRESENT AT THE LAST MEETING). THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

V. APPLICATION REVIEW

A. POCD Amendment Referral and Presentation – Strategic Harbor Plan

Mr. Mangels introduced the POCD Amendment Referral and Presentation of the Strategic Harbor Plan. Ms. Pauchet, Mr. Thorvaldsen, and Mr. Eruz of Indigo River and HR&A were present. Mr. Eruz began the presentation by reviewing existing conditions and demographic and industrial economic analysis findings, including jobs within the harbor area. Ms. Pauchet provided an overview of environmental conditions, including navigation constraints. Mr. Eruz continued with additional details and presented the SWOT analysis focused on the industrial economic side. Mr. Thorvaldsen provided the mooring analysis portion of the presentation. Commissioners asked questions and discussion ensued. The Commission agreed to table this item and discussed scheduling a special meeting for further review.

B. CSPR Referral – 9 Shorehaven Rd

The applicant was not present and Commissioners had outstanding questions. The Commission agreed to table this item.

VI. REPORTS

A. Chairperson

Mr. Mangels reported that he, Deputy Harbor Master Lee, a Boy Scout, and the Scout's father visited Grassy Island to clean up for an Eagle Scout project. He described the condition of the island, particularly Campsite 3, with widespread trash and other debris that had not washed ashore but appeared left by boaters or campers. Mr. Mangels stated he had contacted Recreation and Parks and that Robert Stowers, Ken Hughes, and Eric Montgomery would visit the island in a couple of weeks using the Harbormaster boat.

B. Shellfish Commission

No representative from the Shellfish Commission was present and no report was given.

C. Staff

1. Harbor Master

Harbor Master Lovallo provided the Harbor Master report. He described moving several private moorings and spreading transit moorings in the East Basin and near Bug Light to address congestion concerns raised in Yelp reviews. Harbor Master Lovallo reported progress on the new transient dock being built by Edwards Marine, with installation hoped for by Memorial Day weekend. He noted that 94 mooring holders had signed up and that notices had been sent regarding payment deadlines of May 1st, after which unpaid moorings would be subject to removal at the owner's cost.

Deputy Harbor Master Lee reported on the Munson Marine 23-foot Harbormaster vessel, noting that schematics had been received and the boat was expected to be built within the next two to three months, with delivery likely before the original October date.

D. Committee

1. Mooring and Harbor Safety

Mr. Wilkins reported that the first Dockwa stay was accepted and that a six-week stay had been accepted. He stated that he had begun discussions with Deputy Harbor Master Lee on updating the master customer list for Harbor Management Commission purposes.

2. Finance

Mr. MacDonnell reported no updates on finance but commented that approximately one-third to one-quarter of the operating budget comes from city grants. He stated that street end improvements and harbor access projects would be a proper use of funds. Mr. Mangels agreed.

3. Plans and Recommendations

Mr. Kibbe reported that he was continuing to work with the health department to clarify the automatic withdrawal of funds for water quality interns and the lack of recent reporting on how the funds were being used. Mr. Kibbe requested that all commissioners reach out to him in the next couple of weeks with any project ideas and listed his ideas. Mr. Kibbe indicated he would compile a list of all projects to serve as a guide for commission priorities.

4. Newsletter/Website

Mr. Mangels reported that Commissioner Chris White is not seeking reappointment and encouraged anyone knowing of a potential new commissioner to notify the Mayor's office.

5. Water Quality

Mr. Mangels reported that the Commission was waiting for the Mayor to restart the water quality program. Ms. Kurkjian inquired about the responsibility for water quality and expressed interest based on her background. Ms. Bloom volunteered to serve as the Commission's representative to the Shellfish Commission.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

****MR. KIBBE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

****MS. KURKJIAN SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Courtney Baldwin
Recording Secretary