

**CITY OF NORWALK
STRATEGIC HARBOR PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
VIA TELECONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 25, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Matt Gifford, Alan Kibbe, Chris MacDonnell, Gary Wetmore, Jason Patlis, Jeff Mangels, Jerry Toni, Robert Stowers

STAFF: Steve Kleppin, Amelia Williams

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was to order at 1:03 p.m.

OVERALL UPDATE

Indigo River provided an update on their progress since the last meeting in May. They presented updates on their plan recommendations, including feedback from recent focus group sessions and a tour of the street-ends led by Chris McDonald.

STREET ENDS STUDY

This item was handled out of order. Indigo River discussed the street-ends study, which identified 21 potential access points to Norwalk Harbor, with 19 in the Strategic Harbor Plan (SHP) study area. Five sites were recommended for further development recommendations for each such as improving ADA access, stabilizing shorelines, and installing amenities like seating and interpretive signage. There was discussion about specific site suitability.

The group also discussed potential kayak launch sites in the harbor area, and pursuing grant funding through sources like the Connecticut Port Authority and NOAA to support these projects. Further discussion about specific sites ensued.

MOORING PLAN

This item was handled out of order. Indigo River presented a comprehensive analysis of potential new mooring locations in Norwalk Harbor, focusing on historical usage patterns, environmental considerations, and access points. The discussion covered various factors including water depth, boat density, mooring types, and maintenance costs, with particular attention to Manresa Island, Gregory Point, and the Norwalk Islands. The group also discussed the underutilization of islands in Norwalk for camping and boating.

Mr. Kleppin left at 2 p.m.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

This item was handled out of order. Representatives from HR&A (sub-consultant) gave a presentation reviewing a harbor management strategy. They discussed the current state of harbor management, identifying challenges and gaps across 10 operational categories such as policy and governance, operations, and revenue management.

Mr. Wetmore left at 2:15 p.m.

Five governance model options were presented, ranging from maintaining the status quo to establishing a city-run harbor program. The team emphasized the need for improved coordination, unified patrols, and integrated capital planning. The Steering Committee agreed to provide feedback to the consultant within the next two weeks, with the final deliverables expected in October.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.