

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 10, 2025  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

- ATTENDEES:** Alan Kibbe (Chair), Laurie Jones, John Pinto, Chris MacDonnell, Don Remson.
- ABSENT:** Jeff Mangels, Matt Gifford, Chris White, Mike Matthews.
- STAFF:** Amelia Williams.
- OTHERS:** Tom Ryder (Land Tech, Agent for applicant, 163 Gregory Blvd), Bruce Lovallo (Harbor Master), Owen Lee (Deputy Harbor Master).

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Kibbe called the regular meeting of the Harbor Management Commission to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Kibbe conducted roll call, and a quorum was established.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public participation.

**IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**A. Regular Meeting: November 19, 2025**

Ms. Jones stated the minutes of the November 19, 2025, regular meeting had been distributed and no comments had been received.

**\*\*MR. REMSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2025, REGULAR MEETING AS DISTRIBUTED.**

**\*\*DR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

**V. APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**A. 163 Gregory Blvd – CSPR Referral: Retain a Shoreline Flood and Erosion Control Structure that was constructed without permits and construct a new residential dock**

The applicant, represented by Mr. Tom Ryder of Land Tech, seeks to retain an existing boulder seawall constructed in 2020 without permits (built slightly deeper and with a top elevation of approximately 11.4–11.5 ft rather than the previously approved 11 ft) and to construct a new

residential dock. Discussion followed regarding the after-the-fact seawall permit request, dock design, and neighbor notification.

**\*\*DR. PINTO MOVED THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

**\*\*MS. JONES SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

## **VI. REPORTS**

### **A. Chairperson**

Mr. Kibbe reported that a DEEP public hearing on 80 Seaview Ave is scheduled for December 11, 2025, and that written comments are due by December 23, 2025. Dr. Pinto described how the application is inconsistent with the Harbor Management Plan and expressed concern regarding new requirements for the public hearing process in DEEP's Public Act 25-84. Dr. Pinto stated that he will provide verbal comments at the December 11 hearing and submit written comments by December 23. Mr. Kibbe encouraged Commissioners to attend the hearing.

Mr. Kibbe then delivered his year-end remarks. He thanked the Commissioners, Harbor Master, Norwalk Police, and Recreation and Parks for all their work. He acknowledged the upcoming mayoral transition and the expiration of several Commissioner terms on December 31, 2025. Dr. Pinto will be requesting re-appointment. Chair Kibbe thanked retiring Commissioner Laurie Jones for her service.

### **B. Shellfish Commission**

No report.

### **C. Staff**

#### **1. Harbor Master (see below - this report was handled out of order)**

#### **2. Consultant**

Dr. Pinto delivered the report in the absence of Geoff Steadman. He stated that Mr. Steadman attended the Connecticut Port Authority's annual public hearing and addressed the board on behalf of the Connecticut Harbor Management Association (CHMA). At the hearing, Mr. Steadman commented on the need for continued advocacy for legislative amendments to the Connecticut Harbor Management Act, and discussed upcoming changes to the SHIPP grants program effective in the first quarter of 2026, with Norwalk HMC remaining eligible to apply.

Mr. Steadman also worked with the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative and prepared historical public displays for their meeting. There will be a meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss ongoing update of their Plan including water quality and stormwater management policies with the goal to make them consistent with the Harbor Management Plan.

Finally, Dr. Pinto updated the Commission on the pending DEEP Stewardship Permit for Manresa Wilds, stating that the permit has not yet been issued, and that DEEP is still addressing outstanding issues and appreciated the comments from the Harbor Management Commission including a requirement of remediation of marine sediment offshore of the property.

## **D. Committee**

### **1. Mooring and Harbor Safety**

Mr. Kibbe presented the Mooring and Harbor Safety report on behalf of Mr. Mangels. He announced that Norwalk has again received the Dockwa “Boaters’ Choice Award” and that the Dockwa contract for transient mooring reservations will be reviewed and renewed this winter. Edwards Marine has been requested to provide quotes for winter staking and repainting of transient mooring floats, replacement of undersized mushroom anchors where needed, and construction of a 100-square-foot floating dock system. Discussion followed regarding potential locations for the floating dock system, including the East Basin and the north end of the South Anchorage, with Mr. Lovallo noting a suitable test location south of the Veterans Park boat ramp.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Lovallo updated the Commission on a 30-foot 1988 Bayliner that sank at the Norwalk Boat Club. The vessel has been boomed by the Harbor Master’s office and Norwalk Fire Department, contains no gasoline, and is scheduled to be raised and crushed on Friday, December 12, 2025. The owner is coordinating with the U.S. Coast Guard for removal.

In his report, Mr. Mangels thanked Amelia Williams, retiring Commissioner Laurie Jones, Harbor Master Lovallo, Deputy Harbor Masters Lee and Vinci, and Recreation and Parks for working together.

#### **Harbor Master Report: (this item was handled out of order)**

Mr. Lovallo reported that several seasonal mooring holders will not return in 2026, creating space for two to three additional transient moorings in the East Channel. He stated that mooring renewal notices and final payment reminders have been distributed, with seven unpaid 2025 moorings to be removed if not paid by December 31, 2025. He expressed thanks to Laurie Jones, Amelia Williams and Sargeant Bisceglie and his crew.

### **2. Finance**

Mr. MacDonnell reported that the Commission’s annual operating grant application was submitted to the City just prior to Thanksgiving. The request mirrors the budget discussed at the prior meeting, with a small increase to cover additional transient-mooring maintenance and Harbor Master vessel maintenance. Chairman Kibbe will attend the City grant meeting on Friday.

Mr. MacDonnell further reported that consultant Geoff Steadman’s invoice for June through September 2025, previously approved by the Harbor Management Commission in October, has been placed on hold by the City’s legal department and will not be released until a new sole-source contract is executed. Mr. Remson confirmed that the revised sole-source procurement document has been circulated to Commissioners for final review, with only minor edits required, and will be returned to the purchasing and legal departments immediately for contract preparation and execution.

#### **Further Harbor Master Report: (this item was handled out of order)**

Mr. Lovallo and Mr. Lee reported significant concerns regarding at least two missing or damaged navigational buoys, especially Can #3 off Tavern Island. The Harbormaster’s office has

received numerous public complaints and is coordinating with the Coast Guard. Discussion ensued regarding liability and the difficulty of local maintenance of a federal navigational aid. Mr. Lee and Mr. Lovallo stated they would continue pursuing the matter with the Coast Guard.

3. **Plans and Recommendations** – No report.
4. **Newsletter/Website** – No report.
5. **Water Quality** – Mr. Kibbe expressed hope that the new mayor will reactivate the Mayor’s Water Quality Committee. Dr. Pinto confirmed he had submitted a letter to the Mayor’s office requesting re-establishing the Water Quality Committee.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Kibbe stated a nominating committee of three members is needed to recommend officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary) for 2026.

- \*\*MS. JONES MOVED TO ESTABLISH A NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF DR. PINTO, MR. CHRIS MACDONNELL, AND MR. REMSON.**
- \*\*MR. KIBBE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\*THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Courtney Baldwin,  
Recording Secretary