**CITY OF NORWALK**
**HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**
**REGULAR MEETING**
**FEBRUARY 26, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE:** Alan Kibbe, Chair; Laurie Jones; Matt Gifford; Chris MacDonnell; Jeff Mangels; Mike Matthews; Dr. John Pinto; Donald Remson

**ABSENT:** Chris White

**STAFF:** Amelia Williams

**OTHER:** Bruce Lovallo, Harbor Master; Geoff Steadman, Consultant

## CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kibbe called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. There was a quorum present.

## ROLL CALL

A roll call of those present was performed.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Comment at this time.

## ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING: JANUARY 22, 2025

**** MR. REMSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2025, AS SUBMITTED.**
**** MR. MANGELS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This item was handled out of order.

Dr. Pinto read the slate of nominations for those present:
Chair: Alan Kibbe
Vice Chair: Jeff Mangels
Secretary: Laurie Jones

Dr. Pinto asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor three times per the bylaws. There were no nominations from the floor for additional candidates.

The votes for the officers were handled via secret email ballot with the email ballots submitted to Ms. Williams. This item was continued till later in the meeting.

## APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

### 138 WATER STREET
### PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION: THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO REPLACE AND RECONFIGURE FLOATING DOCKS AT ISCHODA YACHT CLUB, A PRIVATE BOAT CLUB MARINA.

Dr. Pinto presented the proposed general plan. Discussion followed utilizing the map materials provided by the applicant. Due to the absence of Mr. John Hilts, the representative of the applicant, to answer questions, it was decided to table the pre-submission application.

The suggestion was made that a representative of an applicant should be present as a requirement of the Harbor Management Commission to have questions answered or further information provided as necessary.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO TABLE THE APPLICATION UNTIL NEXT MONTH.**
**** MR. MACDONNELL SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### 5 OUTER ROAD
### COASTAL SITE PLAN REFERRAL: THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO DEMOLISH AN EXISTING HOUSE AND IN-GROUND POOL AND CONSTRUCT A NEW SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE.

Dr. Pinto provided an overview of what the applicant desired to do on the property. The plans were provided for review including a map of the site. Further discussion followed. It was commented that this was consistent with the plan due to the reduced vulnerability to flooding and decrease in impervious surface.

**** MS. JONES MOVED THAT THE APPLICATION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN.**
**** DR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## REPORTS

### CHAIRPERSON

Chair Kibbe came forward to deliver his report. He recognized Geoff Steadman's recommendation of memorializing past Harbor Management Commissioners but has concerns about associated upkeep costs. He will put this topic on the agenda for the next HMC meeting. The first meeting of the Strategic Harbor Plan Steering Committee has been held. The Street Ends project and moorings were on the list of items to address. Further discussion followed regarding the committee.

Chair Kibbe brought up the previously mentioned idea of an annual presentation to the Common Council. He discussed the ways in which the Harbor Management Commission could earn more respect and understanding of our expertise from the City, including fostering working relationships with staff in various City Departments. He referenced the productive working relationship Jeff Mangels has developed with the Recs and Parks Department and the opportunity Don Remson has to be our representative liaison with the DPW. He encouraged the Commissioners to reach out to the Seaport Association, Maritime Aquarium and the various waterfront commercial and recreational businesses and clubs.

Dr. Pinto expressed disappointment that the City doesn't understand the value of the HMC. Further discussion followed regarding this issue.

## SHELLFISH COMMISSION

There was no report at this time.

## STAFF

## HARBOR MASTER

Mr. Lovallo came forward to deliver his report. There have been 89 mooring renewals and 31 people who still have not renewed. He reviewed the status of Harbormaster Boat maintenance. He noted that there were fuel issues with water getting into the fuel. All Seasons Marine is working on the boat now. The Marine Unit recently received an email regarding a report that a tug had gone up the river causing issues with the ice. However, due to the Marine Unit drone, they were able to prove that the ice moved due to normal tidal flow and heaving. Discussion followed regarding the incident and the proper procedures for ice on the harbor.

## CONSULTANT

Mr. Steadman came forward to deliver his report. He said they had discussed the proposed memorial and potential renaming of the marina. Chair Kibbe said this would be on the agenda next month and to wait until then.

Mr. Steadman provided an update on the SHIPP grant for Veteran's Park improvements and said they were hoping it would be on the Bond Commission agenda for April. There is also a bill that will make private projects eligible for SHIPP grants.

He reported that he attended the annual gathering of Shellfish Commissions. He also talked about displays he's putting together on the history of shellfishing in Norwalk using the murals in City Hall.

He provided an update on Bill 69-14 and its efforts to amend the Harbor Management Act. There was a recent public hearing on the bill which he recapped. Further discussion followed regarding the status of the bill.

He attended the Norwalk River Watershed meeting. They have received a grant to update their Watershed Plan.

He feels that the HMC should be proactively involved in the plans for Manresa Island including remediation and public access. He thinks the HMC should make a statement regarding such.

He brought up the letter that DEEP had sent back to the Harbor Commission and Shellfish Commission in response to the concerns regarding the Eversource Public Hearing. He reviewed the contents of the letter for those present. He wondered whether there should be a response from the HMC on it. Further discussion followed.

He said that in order to begin a federal dredging project in Norwalk Harbor, the HMC needs to "make a case" for the need. He went on to report on the Southport CT dredging project and his work on the celebration of the 250$^{th}$ anniversary of the Army Corps of Engineers.

## COMMITTEE

## MOORING AND HARBOR SAFETY

Mr. Mangels came forward to provide his report. The DOCKWA renewal has been signed by the City and he reviewed the amount of funds gained from the renewal. They will be pulling and inspecting transient moorings in the upcoming months. He provided an update on harbor safety and island safety as well as island clean-up projects with the Boy Scouts. There are no boating safety issues. They will provide the Harbor Master boat with a tune-up. The new drone is expected to arrive on the 28$^{th}$. Further discussion followed regarding the details of the drone.

## FINANCE

Mr. MacDonnell came forward to provide his report. He recently sent the monthly flow sheet report to the HMC Commissioners. He went through the report for those present. Further review of the sheet followed. We are running well under budget. Mr. Steadman has recently submitted his invoice for all of 2024 for $15,000. Going forward, Mr. Steadman will bill on a quarterly basis.

**** MR. MACDONNELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF THE INVOICE FOR $15,000.**

**** MR. GIFFORD SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THERE WERE SEVEN VOTES FOR THE MOTION (MacDonnell, Gifford, Pinto, Mangels, Jones, Matthews, Remson) AND ONE AGAINST (Kibbe).**

## PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Jones came forward to provide her report. She's been working on updating the Harbor Management Plan including adding information on resiliency. She said she needed to connect with Dr. Pinto and Mr. Steadman about dredging. She stated her belief that any future HMC Plans and Recommendations should be in sync with the City's Strategic Harbor Plan.

## NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE

There was no report at this time.

## WATER QUALITY

There was no report at this time. Chair Kibbe asked for an overview of how the water quality committee worked. Dr. Pinto provided an overview of how the committee worked for those present.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

Ms. Williams provided the results of the votes. Mr. Kibbe was elected to the Chair position. Mr. Mangels was elected to the Vice-Chair position. Ms. Jones was elected to the Secretary position.

## ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GIFFORD MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. MANGELS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*The meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.*

Respectfully Submitted
Ian A. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services