

Five Mile River Commission
October 20, 2022 Minutes

In attendance:

Matt Marion (Chairman)

Craig Jung (Commissioner)

Wim Jessup (Commissioner)

John deRegt (Commissioner)

and

Steve Bartush (Harbor Superintendent)

The Five Mile River Commission commenced its meeting via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Marion requested a motion ratifying the Commission's prior online approvals of its September 8, 2022 meeting minutes and its July 29, 2022 and September 8, 2022 decisions covering the dock applications for 35 Rowayton Avenue and 9 Rowayton Avenue. Commissioner Jessup so moved, Commissioner De Regt seconded, and upon full vote the Commission unanimously approved the minutes and dock application decisions.

The Commission next reviewed several ongoing projects with Harbor Superintendent Bartush. First, Mr. Bartush confirmed that a small section of the accessway between the dock at 135 Five Mile River Rd. and the federal channel remains impacted by a mooring string and that the mooring string will be relocated away from the accessway before next season. Second Mr. Bartush agreed to ensure that all 2022 invoices from the Commission's marine service contactor will be billed this year in order to avoid carry-over expenses in 2023. Third, the Commission briefly discussed the ongoing DEEP investigation regarding unauthorized shoreline activities in Darien, and agreed to table the discussion for future consideration. Fourth, the Commission discussed the necessity and timing for taking detailed soundings in the river and agreed to continue discussions in preparation for performing/arranging for river soundings in the spring of 2023.

After addressing these items, the Commission then discussed the amended dock application covering 27 Rowayton Avenue, the recent site visit by Commissioner Jung and Harbor Superintendent (HS) Bartush, the spacing between the docks along the Rowayton shoreline near 27 Rowayton Avenue, the proposed 4' x 52' extension to the existing pier dock at the site, and the impact of the proposed extension on nearby shellfish seeding areas. The Commission agreed to issue a written decision shortly.

Last Mr. Marion noted that 2022 revenue as of 10/22/22 slightly exceeds 2021 revenue, but that higher 2022 expenses, including \$3,570.17 in unbilled 2021 marine services, offset this improvement. The Commission agreed to consider the different net results at its next meeting.

In his HS report, Mr. Bartush reported on various projects, confirming the following: (1) the rock warning buoy off Rowayton Beach has been installed and is holding well; (2) he is awaiting the label for the new 'No discharge' discharge buoy, which will be installed in the spring; (3) the 'No wake' buoy at mouth has been repositioned and appears to be holding well; (4) with his assistance, the Norwalk Marine police chased a squatter off a vacant mooring in the Five Mile River; (5) after discussion, he confirmed that he will adopt dissimilar colors for the annual harbor use stickers in order to avoid confusion when inspecting current year stickers; (6) 2022 Dockwa revenue from 27 nights of transient rentals totals \$1,080 YTD; (7) a local resident had requested permission to store residential docks on a mooring (however, the Commission rejected this request); (8) he inquired about a drone survey of the river while the moorings are occupied in order to assist in creating a more accurate mooring map; (9) in light of the unidentified speeding power boat in the river recently, it would be useful to collect boat names for all docked boats in the FMR in 2023.

After discussion regarding these items and with no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:12 pm.

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom. To join the meeting, please contact Matt Marion in advance of the meeting via email at mmarion@marionlawllc.com to obtain the relevant meeting entry code.

Respectively submitted,

Five Mile River Commission
and Harbor Superintendent