

Five Mile River Commission
March 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Matt Marion (Chairman)

Wim Jessup (Commissioner)

Craig Jung (Commissioner)

and

Steve Bartush (Harbor Superintendent)

Garth Griffiths (Assistant Harbor Superintendent)

Sergeant Justin Bisceglie (Guest)

Absent: John deRegt (Commissioner)

The Five Mile River Commission commenced its regularly scheduled meeting via Zoom at 6:03 p.m.

Chairman Marion opened the meeting by welcoming Sergeant Justin Bisceglie, Unit Commander of the Norwalk Marine Police (NMP), to discuss pertinent issues in the Five Mile River, including ways to curtail speeding boaters who disregard the 'No Wake' Zone, the enforcement of lifejacket requirements for kayakers and SUP users, and general marine safety issues. The Commissioners noted their recent public messages regarding boats ignoring the 'No Wake' zone in the river and confirmed the benefit of the NMP patrolling the harbor on busy summer weekends. Sgt. Bisceglie indicated that Norwalk's 2 marine patrol boats would patrol the river whenever practicable to emphasize their presence and availability to boaters. The Commission thanked Sergeant Bisceglie for taking the time to attend the meeting and for the NMP's continued important efforts in the river.

Next, Mr. Marion reported that the Commission had submitted comments regarding the Coastal Area Management (CAM) application covering 95 Rowayton Avenue, and that the application had subsequently been withdrawn. He also requested the Commissioners review and comment regarding the recently submitted application covering the proposed bulkhead replacement at 101 Rowayton Avenue.

The Commission also thanked Asst. Harbor Superintendent Garth Griffiths for his recent analysis of the dock/boat slip databases, and discussed ways to improve the harbor use fee collection process and to provide possible assistance in enhancing the database. Finally,

the Commission agreed upon a draft communication to send to the City of Norwalk's Comptroller's office regarding recent changes to its dredge fund account.

The Commission then noted/discussed Harbor Superintendent Bartush's March report in which he raised the following topics: (i) the distribution of 2024 FMR harbor decals by Tammy Papp to the marine service providers upon completion of mooring and ground tackle inspections; (ii) the lower YTD number of 2024 mooring and slip applications compared to recent years; (iii) an updated Wait List for posting to Norwalk's and Darien's websites; (iv) the replacement of the rock warning buoy adjacent to Rowayton beach; and (v) the loss and needed replacement of one 'No Wake' buoy in the river.

With no further business, the Commission adjourned its meeting. The Commission's next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16th, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom. To join, 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