

Five Mile River Commission
January 13, 2022 Minutes
(Meeting via ZOOM)

In attendance:

Matt Marion (Chairman)

Craig Jung (Commissioner)

John deRegt (Commissioner)

Wim Jessup (Commissioner)

Steve Bartush (Harbor Superintendent)

Also present: John Wasielewski and David Heuttl (public)

The Five Mile River Commission commenced its on-line meeting via Zoom at 6:04 p.m.

Chairman Marion initiated discussions with the two members of the public attending the meeting remotely. Mr. Wasielewski, who recently moved to Rowayton, discussed his concern about limited public access to the river via the Town Dock ("TD"). He indicated that TD has a long wait list and may not be a viable option for newcomers seeking access to the mooring field. He also expressed concern about the limited mooring field access available through local marinas. The Commissioners confirmed they were looking into both issues and agreed to revisit the topic of public access later this year, and to alert Mr. Wasielewski about such future discussions.

Next, the Commission heard from Mr. Heuttl, who is a property owner upriver from the Five Mile River harbor, and is concerned about shoreline erosion and blockages on the river. Mr. Marion set out the basic regulatory authority and responsibility of the City of Norwalk and the limited scope of the Commission's jurisdiction in dealing with upriver issues. Mr. Heuttl confirmed that he would continue to work with the City to address his concerns about erosion and the potential flooding of his property due to upriver blockages.

Next, the Commission discussed several items that it has prioritized for early 2022. These items included the Harbor Superintendent (HS) Steve Bartush's oversight of the biannual mooring inspection program in the river and the removal of orphan buoys near Butler's Creek; discussions with local marina operators about the collection of harbor use fees; and the installation of a marker at the mouth of the river. HS Bartush confirmed he would discuss the inspection program with the

marine service providers tasked with inspecting the moorings, and also planned to review the mooring field map and current photos to determine which phantom moorings near Butler's Creek must be removed. As regards the collection of use fees, Commissioners DeRegt and Jung confirmed that they were arranging meetings with several marinas in order to encourage the direct billing/payment of those fees through those marinas. Finally, Commissioner Jessup circulated the design for a proposed navigation aid which he recommended be used to mark a rock outside the channel along the eastern (Rowayton) shore near the entrance to the harbor. HS Bartush approved the design and the Commission authorized him to purchase and install the buoy. The HS confirmed that he would arrange the purchase and installation of the buoy this spring. Finally, Chairman Marion noted that no YTD financial results were available but would be circulated prior to the Commission's February meeting.

HS Bartush confirmed that the 2022 dock & mooring applications have been distributed via email. He also updated the Commission about damage to the salt marsh on the Darien side of the river that was caused this past winter by a local home owner conducting unpermitted work.

With no further business, the meeting concluded at 7:05 pm.

The Commission's next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17th, 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