

**NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Tony Mobilia, Chair; Jan Schaefer, Bill Gardella; Joe Perella; Tony Aitoro; Dennis Santella

STAFF: Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Harbor Master Mike Griffin

OTHERS: Officer Mike Silva NPD; Paul Saviano

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Chairman Mobilia called the meeting to order at 6:20 p. m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Mobilia read the role, and a quorum was present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Mobilia stated that he met last week with the DOT and Norwalk River Submarine Cable Crossing. He stated that the DOT will also be having a meeting with the Shellfish Commission to discuss the cable.

STAFF REPORTS

**** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO TAKE AGENDA ITEMS OUT OF ORDER.**
**** MR. GARDELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Harbormaster Report

Mr. Griffin presented his report as follows:

Item #1 I have attended various NHMC and DOT meetings during this report period. These meetings were attended on behalf of the NHMC, subject Norwalk Walk Bridge project and Yankee Doodle / I-95 Bridge project.

Item #2 It was reported to me by one of the local shellfish companies, concerned about possible damage to local shellfish resources, that there was a sailboat approximately 30 feet in length anchored in the vicinity of Marvin Beach. The vessel was anchored in low water sitting on the bottom during various

times of normal tide cycles. I visited the vessel and on two occasions placed 14 day notice stickers for anchoring in Norwalk Harbor while riding on a ships own equipment. After the fourteen day period I reported same to the Norwalk Marine police for possible follow up action.

Item #3 A harbor review shows three vessels remain on anchor in the east basin. One is owned by Mr. Peter Burger. I will contact Mr. Burger reminding him of his permit expiration date for vessel removal, 12-31-16.

Item #4 Recent forward progress, I have and will continue to contact each applicant from the list of incomplete applications, furnished to me by the NHMC Mooring Committee, by phone stating the following.

“This is a courtesy call to inform you that your application is incomplete and therefore as the State of Connecticut Harbor Master, I have not issued your 2016 mooring permit and will not affix a 2016 mooring decal on your vessel and ground tackle.” I cautioned them that they must go online and complete their application. I furnished them with their application reference number and warned that they may lose their mooring location and 2017 renewal rights if they are not properly permitted in 2016.

**** MR. AITORO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE HARBOR MASTER REPORT AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. GARDELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Waterfront Advisory

Mr. Griffin presented the Waterfront Advisory report as follows:

1. Please see the minutes of the December Shellfish meeting emailed to your attention.
2. Final expenses for submittal to DEEP for payment under the Clean Vessel Act contract with the City for the 2016 boating season are being finalized.
3. Progress on the launch ramps and boating center parking lot projects continues.

Consultant's Report

No report was given.

SHELLFISH COMMISSION

Chairman Mobilia stated that the Shellfish Commission would be getting a report from the DOT on the Norwalk River Submarine Cable Crossing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mooring and Harbor Safety

Mr. Santella gave his report as follows:

Moorings:

The Online Mooring System, continues to show improvement and compliance by most of the mooring applicants, however there are a number of applicants who do not comply, by submitting their vessel registration, insurance and tackle reports as required.

Renewals and applications for the 2017 season, will not allow payments or be accepted without including all the required documents.

There are 105 mooring permits in the system for the 2016 season. The mooring areas are located in Norwalk Harbor, East Basin, South Anchorage, Peach Island, Belle Island, Ram Bay Island, Sheffield Harbor, Betts Bay and Copps Island Bay.

The Managed Fields consist of: 90 moorings for Norwalk Yacht Club, 59 moorings for Sprite Island Yacht Club, 75 moorings for Rowayton Yacht Club for a total of 224.

The Mooring Rules and Regulations for Anchoring Vessels in Norwalk Harbor were approved by the Common Council this year and the Rules and Regulations are linked on the Online Mooring System and the City of Norwalk website.

If mooring applicants have questions, suggestions or need the help of the Mooring Committee, please email us at nhmcmoorings@gmail.com

Marine Police Unit/ NFD Marine Unit

No report was given.

Bridges

Chairman Mobilia stated that the DOT has not responded to the NHMC request to combine the two projects on I-95. The first project involves the storm drain emptying into the harbor and the other involves the bridge drains emptying into the harbor. Mr. Steadman stated that the DOT will be responding to some of our requests but that it does not seem inclined to combine the two projects.

Chairman Mobilia stated that there have been several meetings about the WALK Bridge including a recent public hearing. He stated that last week at the Maritime Aquarium, the design company

presented the three different designs and explained the complexity of each one. Our comments on the WALK Bridge have been included with the City's comments from various offices and commissions. We have also sent in our comments separately.

Chairman Mobilia stated that work on the Stroffolino Bridge continues to go forward.

Application Review

1. DEEP Temporary Authorization No. 201614117-TA, Veteran's Memorial Park, City of Norwalk (for information purposes)

Mr. Gardella reported that he received letters from DEEP authorizing the placement of a crane for 90 days at Veteran's Park.

2. DEEP Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve Structures, Dredging & Fill and Tidal Wetlands and Intent to Waive Public Hearing, Application No. 201609394-MG, Water Sports Center, Inc.

Mr. Gardella stated that Coastwide Marine is closing down and moving to Jennings Road. He stated that our comment to them was that that they should go ahead with the move. The applicant should show the coordinates of the dock.

**** MR. AITORO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION ON THE CONDITION THAT THE APPLICANT SHOW DOCK COORDINATES BEFORE DEEP TAKES ACTION.**

**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTIOIN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Zoning Commission Referral No. 16R Proposed amendment to Sec. 118-1110 Costal Zone regarding vegetated buffers from the Coastal Jurisdiction Line for properties in the Coastal Zone.

Mr. Steadman stated that the Zoning Commission is suggesting that a 10 foot vegetative buffer be added. He stated that the suggestion states "may" and not "shall" and that it might not be feasible in every instance. Mr. Aitoro stated that it is not feasible in the case of a bulk head.

**** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO TRANSMIT THESE COMMENTS AS STATED.**

**** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. DEEP Pre-application plans CT Dot CP-243 Interlocking Project, Norwalk River Submarine Cable Crossing, Walk Bridge, CT Department of Transportation.

Mr. Steadman stated that the cable goes underneath the Walk Bridge and that the channel would have to be blocked for three weeks. The top four feet of material is contaminated and would have to be

brought on a barge to Devine Brothers. He stated that the DOT will be meeting with the Shellfish Commission in January. He suggested that we table this for now, and inform the DOT that we want to have the benefits of their comments to the Shellfish Commission and an analysis of the sediment data.

**** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM PENDING THE DOT MEETING WITH THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION AND REQUIRING SEDIMENT DATA.**

**** MR. AITORO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Finance

Mr. Aitoro stated that Ms. Schaefer needs to be reimbursed for \$308.72. He stated that there is a returned check for \$295. Chairman Mobilia stated that the proposed budget for NHMC was voted on during the last meeting and we will be meeting with members of the Finance Department on January 10, 2017 to justify the budget.

Plans and Recommendations

No report was given.

Water Quality

No report was given.

Newsletter/Website

Ms. Schaefer stated that the newsletter should not be sent in to be reprinted as it is no longer timely.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 16, 2016

**** MR. GARDELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 16, 2016 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

No new or old business was brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. GARDELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF NORWALK
STATE OF THE HARBOR MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Tony Mobilia, Chair; Jan Schaefer, Bill Gardella; Joe Perella; Tony Aitoro; Dennis Santella

STAFF: Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Harbor Master Mike Griffin

OTHERS: Mayor Harry Rilling; Officer Mike Silva NPD; Captain Jon Maggio, Norwalk Fire Department Marine Unit; Officer Pete Lepak Norwalk Police Department Marine Unit; Matt DeVito, Shellfish Commission; Joseph Sherline; Tony D'Andrea, Anthony D'Andrea, Boy Scout Troop 19; Nikki Cantatore, Harbor Watch Lab Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mobilia called the meeting to order at 7:31 p. m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Mobilia welcomed all in attendance and reviewed the mission of the Harbor Management Commission and the different recreational and business uses of the harbor.

Presentation of the David S. Dunavan Award

Chairman Mobilia presented the David S. Dunavan Award to Mr. Joe Sherline. Mr. Sherline thanked everyone that helped him over the years, and that he was proud to have known Mr. Dunavan.

Mayor Harry Rilling thanked all of the Commissioners for their hard work. He stated that they have stood tall on the Walk Bridge issue. He stated that the Water Quality Committee will be put together soon and that it is possible that Mr. Sherline could be chairman of the committee.

Norwalk Police Department Marine Unit

Sgt. Lepak spoke about the importance of rowing and boating safety. He stated that complaints are down this year compared to last. He stated that safe boating instruction courses, including Spanish speaking courses, have made a big difference in educating the public. He stated that relations with neighboring jurisdictions have improved.

Officer Silva reviewed the number of calls for assistance, stops of boats, and arrests that were made in the past year. He stated that over the past three years, the numbers have remained consistent. He stated that through a Coast Guard grant, the communication systems on the boats has improved and we are better able to call on the resources of adjacent towns.

Harbor Master Mike Griffin

Mr. Griffin stated that he has been getting a lot of calls about the launch ramp project. He stated that the visitor's dock brings in a large amount of revenue from boaters. He stated that it is an easy and safe trip out to the islands to go camping. The negative is that the visitor's dock project was started before the end of the summer season, but that it was necessary to start then in order to be finished by the beginning of the spring season.

He stated that the Police maintained a safe environment while the Walk Bridge was being worked on. The Coast Guard required repairs to the fendering system.

Norwalk Fire Department Marine Unit

Captain Maggio stated that the addition of a marine equipment trailer has been a great help to the Fire Department. He stated that it helps in preparation for the Walk Bridge project and in response time for larger calls. A boat can quickly be loaded up from the equipment trailer and respond.

He stated that tactical drills were done in the Spring and the Fall to work on large scale emergencies such as a downed aircraft or a large boat emergency. He also stated that a \$34,000 grant from FEMA has allowed for the development of a regional scuba dive team which will, in part, benefit Norwalk.

Mooring and Harbor Safety

Mr. Santella stated that the Online Mooring System needs improvements. A number of boaters are not complying with the requirements. In the future, applications will not be accepted without full documentation.

Water Quality

Mr. Steadman stated that water quality is a large concern of the commission. He reviewed the concerns over the stormwater runoff from the Yankee Doodle Bridge as well as the drain at Hendricks Avenue near the bridge. He stated that sediment contamination in the past and the need to have data on the current pollution levels are two large concerns. He stated that the NHMC is working on a study to look at what other state DOT's are doing in regards to stormwater management.

Anthony D'Andrea, Boy Scout Troop 19

Anthony D'Andrea stated that members of Troop 19 have installed medallions on 504 storm drains that state "No Dumping, Drains to Waterways." He stated that he wanted to do this project because he heard about the Earthplace, Harbor Watch, and the Integration & Application Network at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science giving Norwalk Harbor a C+ in a report card published in 2015. This project aims to increase public awareness and prevent trash, pet waste, household chemicals, and other pollutants from entering the City's storm water drainage system.

Nikki Cantatore, Harbor Watch Lab Director

Ms. Cantatore stated that Harbor Watch monitors the Norwalk Harbor bacteria levels. From the Spring to Fall, the sites are monitored once a week and once a month over the winter. She stated that Harbor Watch has been recording this data since 1998 and as a result of the surveys some sections of the river have been removed from the list of Connecticut impaired waterways.

Ms. Cantatore stated that the storm drain bacteria levels are monitored and when elevated counts are found, the drains are investigated with the Department of Public Works until a point source is found. Harbor Watch has bacteria data on these storm drains from 2010 to the present.

Ms. Cantatore stated that profile surveys are used to capture conditions in the river from surface to bottom, tracking oxygen and monitoring salt wedges. The surveys are conducted in the early morning at 25 sites weekly.

Mr. Tony D'Andrea came forward to state that the Clean Water Act needs to be considered when looking at what is coming out of the 12 drains and going into the waterways. The de-icing agents, and their impact on shellfish and the water quality are important to consider. He stated that local businesses have standards they have to meet when washing boats. The DOT should be held to the same standard and account for pollution coming from cars going over the bridges.

Mr. Steadman stated that up to this point, we have not gone above the state level. He stated that we could develop a conversation with the Environmental Protection Agency. He stated that Rhode Island was sued for not having an adequate stormwater management plan. Connecticut needs to improve the stormwater management as New York has done.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services