

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
APRIL 27, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Chair, Tony Mobilia, Chair, Tony Aitoro, Joe Perella,
Dr. John Pinto, Jan Schaefer, Dennis Santella.

STAFF: Geoff Steadman, Consultant

ABSENT: Michael Griffith, Harbormaster;
Jose Cebrian, Bill Gardella, John Romano

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mobilia called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members were in attendance as listed above and there was a quorum present.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Mobilia provided his report and noted that a public information meeting will be held on the Walk Bridge on Wednesday, May 11 at City Hall Community Room (flier attached) with two sessions 4:30-6:30 p.m. and 7:00-9:00 p.m. He noted that this is publicized from Conn DOT and the City of Norwalk and the Walk Bridge Program Team to learn about the replacement of the bridge and related projects.

There was discussion on posting the flier on the website along with the link on the program: www.walkbridgect.com

Mr. Mobilia reported than an email was received from a citizen who is a resident of the Ironworks Building regarding the Walk Bridge. Mr. Mobilia will respond and send the link for more information along with the flier on the meeting of May 11.

Staff Reports

Consultant – Mr. Steadman noted that there was no separate report and that his report would be comments on topics listed on the agenda.

Harbor Master's Report –

Harbor Master Griffin's report was submitted as follows:

Subject: March/April 2016 Norwalk Harbor Report

Item # 1: Checks and or paperwork that I received in error from Mr. Woolford and others were submitted to the Mooring Committee Chairman, Apr. 22.2016

Item # 2: Please see the minutes of the April 7 monthly Shell Fish meeting.

Item # 3: 2-29-16 spoke with new 2016 mooring permit holder Mr. La Cava at the request of the NHMC Mooring committee regarding the details for the placement of his sail boats ground tackle.

Item #4: 3-1-16 Received and forwarded to the NHMC members, NMP and G&C Marine copies of the DEEP permit for the discretion of the harbor speed and no wake buoys and their respective placement locations

Item # 5: Forwarded to the NHMC Mooring Committee and NHMC Commission members e-mails that I received from the following people:

Item # 5 A Barbara Ramsey

Item # 5 B Robert Kleid

Item #5 C Total Marine

Item # 5 D Mr. Leszczyńska

Item # 6: I received a complaint on Thursday April 4-21-16 that a 36 powered boat was secured

Item #7: Vessel moved from City docks loading/off loading area on Friday April 22, next secured to a mooring in the East Basin without a permit from me. I spoke with the owner on Saturday April 23, 2016 and ordered the vessel removed from the mooring. The vessel was towed to the South anchorage area this am at 0900 hours and is presently riding on its ship anchor. I informed the owner that no vessel may ride on its ships equipment in Norwalk Harbor for more than 14 days in any calendar year. He plans to have the disabled vessel towed to Bridgeport, CT this coming Friday April 29. I informed him of the consequences if he becomes non compliant, he said he fully understood the regulations and would comply.

Item #8: On February 25 I received a phone call from a Vantage point resident reporting a loose floating dock that had washed upon the Second Street beach area. The derelict abandoned dock was later removed and disposed of.

Item #9 On Wednesday evening March 30 at 1900 hours, along with members of the NFD MU I sponsored a Cold Water survival class demonstration at the NFD headquarters on Ct Avenue. The event was attended by approx 40 rowers, fisherman, etc. by a show of hands it was decided that this should be an annual event to promote boating safety.

Waterfront Advisory Report

1: The David S. Dunavan Boating Center opened on a weekend only basis on Saturday April 23 for the 2016 boating season. Full 7 day staffing will begin on Monday May 23, 2016

1A: An ice machine for the sale of bagged ice to the public has been leased and installed.

1B: Automatic inflating life jackets, to be worn by Boating Center staff at all times when they are on duty at the center, have been donated by Captain and NHMC Commissioner Bill Gardella and family, THANK YOU BILL !

2: On April 18, 2016 the marine units of the NPD and NFD responded to a fire of approximately 100' x 300' in area on Grassy island. No property damage or injuries were reported.

3: A final determination by the NPD, title abandonment, was reached regarding the 27' sailboat secured to the Norwalk Visitor's Docks. Presently the Director of Recreation and Parks is working with the city's legal Department to obtain a DEEP approval to properly dispose of the vessel.

4: The NFD Marine unit has requested and received my support for the possible placement of a trailer at the DSD Boating Center to house additional oil containment boom and equipment.

Mooring Committee

Mr. Santella submitted his reports as follows:

The Online Mooring System continues to show substantial compliance and improvement throughout the year and the Committee continues to address issues and make improvements as required.

- Mooring renewals are continuing to come in and the Committee is addressing applications that have been mailed in and are inputting the information into the Online System.

- We received the mooring stickers. I would like to thank Geoff Steadman for his help. The mooring stickers will be attached to the mooring ball and the vessel for all complete and approved mooring applications.

Mr. Santella added that rules and regulations were sent to the Commissioners and the area mooring and boat yards. Mr. Mobilia noted that he will resend to Frank Strauch to post on line.

Harbor Safety

G & C Marine have received the three (3) new speed buoys. We will be reusing one (1) existing buoy and one (1) buoy that the Commission purchased.

- The Marine Police will mark the exact location of each speed buoy per the permit and G&C Marine will install them ASAP.
- G&C Marine has donated the cost of the new buoys, including labor to install all five (5) buoys.
- Norman Edwards has donated the 150# mooring anchors.

Mr. Santella noted that he wanted a letter to the Gardella family for the donation of life jackets. There was discussion on adding a label 'property of.' or 'donated by'.

Mr. Santella then reported on his meeting held prior to this meeting with the DOT and Mike on the Fender Project:

- The objective was to get the ball rolling with what needs to be done with pilings and repairs. The goal is to start mid June.
- They met with rowers on the water times and schedules for the next 4-5 months.
- The focus is to stay in contact with the community on the six phases of sequential quadrant replacement of the piles and installation of new piles, replacement of whalers in walkways over the next 15-16 weeks.
- There was discussion on the workers schedules and timing of the contractor.
- The next meeting is May 5.

Bridges Committee Report

Mr. Mobilia provided his report and noted that a public information meeting will be held on Wednesday May 11 at City Hall Community Room as noted in the Chairman's report.

He reported that he had sent the minutes from the Committee for information and noted that it is not yet 30% designed. He noted that there was a meeting in Wilton held by Senator Murphy's office to get public input on storm water drains and water quality.

There was discussion on septic system leeching and on chemical run-off and the involvement by the DEEP.

Mr. Mobilia suggested that these issues be addressed in a letter of concerns from the HMC.

Application Review Committee

Dr. Pinto presented the following applications and recommendations:

Calf Pasture Island, Nowinski Application.

Application submitted by Bajek Associates. Description: Involves addition of a series of five 5' x 25' timber access floats (hinged together), 8 timber anchor pilings and a 4' x 9' aluminum ramp to an existing authorized floating dock. The access floats will have stops underneath to keep the float system 18" above the substrate at low tide. The applicant will provide an overview of the previous violations and measures that were taken to remediate those violations.

Dr. Pinto reviewed the history of fines for the applicant and the legal court case ruling of reductions, fines paid and assessed to the contractor. There was discussion on whether the applicant is in compliance with violation remediation actions as ordered by the courts.

There was further discussion on the details of the float system and tidal levels. It was noted that at this point this is a preliminary application to determine if the applicant is in compliance. Dr. Pinto explained that once that compliance is determined, further details of the application will be reviewed.

- ** DR. PINTO MOVED TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE COMMENTS TO THE APPLICANT TO DETERMINE COMPLAINEE WITH PRIOR VIOLATION REMEDIATION.**
- ** MR. AITORO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Shore & Country Club, CAM application.

Description: The applicant proposes to construct new FEMA compliant two story bath houses on "generally" the same footprint as the existing, nonconforming bathhouse. The applicant seeks a variance of the 30' rear yard setback as measured from mean high water. In addition, repairs to an existing concrete seawall (kept within same footprint) are planned with a modification of less than one foot higher (total elevation of 10.25') than the existing structure. Architectural drawings (too large to email) will be provide at the meeting.

Dr. Pinto referred to the drawings as presented. He noted that in review of the best management practices and FEMA guidelines, it is up to the ZBA to determine hardship for variance approval.

- ** DR. PINTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION AND TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE COMMENTS TO THE APPLICANT**
- ** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Dr. Pinto requested to suspend the rules to add the following item to the agenda:

Public notice of rule change for the Walk Bridge.

Dr. Pinto referred to the display board of draw bridge opening times and outlined the schedule during the construction phases. There was discussion on the times and conflicts with the lack of simultaneous openings and the potential of boats being caught in the channel between the closures of the Walk Bridge and Rte 136 Bridge. There was discussion and suggestions to draft a letter to forward the Commissions comments and concerns on to the Committee.

- ** DR. PINTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION TO DRAFT A LETTER WITH THE ABOVE COMMENTS TO THE BRIDGES COMMITTEE ON THE DRAW BRIDGE OPENING SCHEDULES.**
- ** MS. SCHAEFER SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Finance Committee

Mr. Aitoro provided his report and noted outstanding bills, requests for payment and amounts in the account. There was discussion on the spread sheet and grant transfers from the City.

There was discussion on the unpaid bill from Aqua Culture that was to be split with the Shellfish Commission. Mr. Steadman explained that this was for mapping of the beds with visual coordinates to be put onto a CD. It was agreed to send an email to Mr. Cebrian on whether payment was authorized.

Plans and Recommendations Committee Report

Ms. Schaefer provided her report as follows:

The Committee met on April 11 and discussed the possibility of conducting a survey in Norwalk to get public opinion. West Haven had conducted a waterfront survey, which Geoffrey Steadman reported on, stating that the purpose was intended to get input prior to creating a Harbor Management Plan. The West Haven survey, which was conducted through an online tool, was fairly comprehensive, addressing various recreational and commercial uses of the waterfront.

We discussed the value of doing a public opinion survey in Norwalk, stating that there needs to be a clear purpose and the issues should be actionable. Possible topics included getting public opinion on the bridge projects, the Norwalk Watershed, and water quality.

Plans and Recommendations Committee Report--continued

The Committee felt that there could be value in focusing on water quality and building public awareness about the need for good water quality. The program could reference nonpoint source pollution, how it affects our rivers and harbor, and what the public can do to help prevent pollution. The Committee wanted to present the idea to the Commission to see if there's interest in exploring this further.

There was discussion of the water quality issues and model analysis of the best management practices for storm water management to included metal pollutants from cars into the water sedimentation into the river.

There was further discussion on having a general permit for state compliance on this issue. Ms. Schaefer suggested that these issues be addressed in a letter of concerns from the HMC to Senator Murphy and the DEEP.

Shellfish Commission – No report

Newsletter/Website - Ms. Schaefer provided her report as follows:

1. Distribution Lists

The Committee met on April 12. We discussed building a distribution list that could be used for communications from the Commission – sending out newsletters, meeting notices, etc. It could also be used to alert organizations along the waterfront, as needed, for safety or emergency concerns. We will reach out to several yacht clubs, rowing clubs, and other interested parties for key contact info and we'll maintain active contact lists. The list of mooring holders might be included.

2. Website and content

We talked about adding appropriate content to the website, possibly including information about the proposed bridge repairs, water quality, safe boating, and other issues as they develop. The content should not be very dated, so the site does not need a lot of updating and maintenance.

There is also need for better navigation to get to the NHMC page. It would be helpful for Commissioners to provide information and content that we can post on the site.

There was discussion about the current website page and it was agreed to meet with Larry Manzi on navigation changes.

3. Newsletter-- continued

We are working on an issue of the newsletter that we'd like to get out by the end of May. Possible topics include: The poem about Oyster Shell Park by Laurel Peterson Boating safety and Safe Boating Week – Sgt. LaPak, Mike Griffin Rowing safety – Mike Griffin Cold water survival – Mike Griffin Bridge repairs update – Tony Mobilia, John Pinto Tips on water quality to help prevent pollution – Jan Schaefer Other topics – TBD

There was discussion of the next newsletter and timeliness for it being published on line, as this is the beginning of the boating season.

4. Facebook page

In order to build more awareness about the NHMC and share relevant information, it is possible to have a Facebook page that would allow the Commission to post material and share it with fans/followers. Comments from the public would not be posted without being cleared by an administrator. Information for sharing on the page could include: awareness about the bridge projects; water quality; safe boating; announcements about programs and meetings, such as Safe Boating Week, State of the Harbor Meeting, etc. Photos could also be posted.

There was discussion on the development of a Facebook page. Mr. Perella outlined the architecture and how it could work along with a rough recommendation. There was discussion on the domain and restrictions and the difficulty of getting links to the state sites from the current City webpage. It was agreed to meet with Larry Manzi for ways to improve the current web page navigation and timely postings of meetings.

It was agreed to have a mock up page of Facebook for approval at the next meeting.

4. Display unit

To help build more awareness about the NHMC, we could have a display unit that travels to Norwalk-area events, such as the SoNo Arts Festival, etc. The display could be used to post information about the Commission. It would be free-standing and would not necessarily need an attendant.

There as discussion of the previous display unit that was created and where it is stored. Mr. Mobilia noted that he would look into it at the Boating Center.

Minutes

Changes: Page 1: Remove 'Application Review Committee' from the heading. Change Chairman to Chair. Delete 'There was no roll call'
Page 3 change DEP to DEEP. In the last motion change Romano to Pinto.

- ** MS. SCHAEFER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2016 AS AMENDED WITH CORRECTIONS NOTED.**
- ** DR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Adjournment

- ** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**
- ** DR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
M.Knox; Telesco Secretarial Services

**WALK BRIDGE PROGRAM
PUBLIC INFORMATION
MEETING**



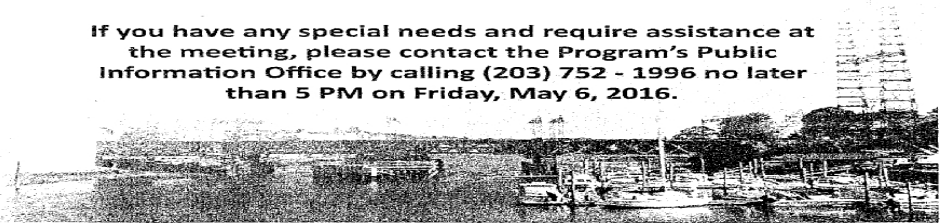
Please join the Connecticut Department of Transportation, City of Norwalk and Walk Bridge Program Team to learn about the replacement of the Walk Bridge and related projects. All Norwalk residents, business owners, waterway users and commuters are encouraged to attend.

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016
at Norwalk City Hall, Community Room
145 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851**

**Two Sessions:
4:30 - 6:30 PM or 7:00 - 9:00 PM**



If you have any special needs and require assistance at the meeting, please contact the Program's Public Information Office by calling (203) 752 - 1996 no later than 5 PM on Friday, May 6, 2016.



**MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.WALKBRIDGECT.COM**

