

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Tony Mobilia, Chair; Bill Gardella, Joe Perella, Dr. John Pinto, John Romano, Jan Schaefer, Dennis Santella; Pete Johnson

STAFF: Geoff Steadman, Consultant

OTHER: Officer Mike Silva, NPD; Paul Saviano;

ABSENT: Michael Griffith, Harbormaster; Tony Aitoro, Jose Cebrian

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 as follows:

February 10, 2017: Tony Mobilia, Dr. Pinto and Geoff Steadman met with Legal and Recreation & Parks on moving the Seaport & Aquarium boats. The Mayor's deputy and Liz Stocker were in attendance and questions were forwarded to the DEEP.

There is a meeting with the BET on March 16 starting at 6:30 to review the budget request and he will attend with Tony Aitoro.

Mr. Mobilia noted that the John Frank plaque for installation at Calf Pasture Beach is in the works. It was noted that a good photo of clamming along the river is being sought.

Staff Reports

Consultant – Mr. Steadman noted that there was no separate report other than comments on topics listed on the agenda.

He noted that at the table was the report of City of Norwalk Plan of Conservation and Development from 2008 that has no mention of the Harbor Management Commission. There was discussion on how this important document is critical to City planning currently being re-written as part of the ten year plan requirement for the City.

It was suggested that a letter be written to address the need for inclusion and input with the Plan of Conservation and Development and all Norwalk harbor-related studies and reports.

Harbor Master's Reports—

Mr. Mobilia noted that Harbor Master Griffin's reports were submitted by email as follows:

Item # 1 The early spring cold water use, safety meeting will be hosted by the Norwalk Fire Department on Thursday evening March 09 at 1900 hours at the main fire headquarters station # 2 on Ct. Avenue. All are welcome commercial and recreational boaters alike.

Items # 2 No Shellfish items to report this period due to the fact that the SF commission did not hold a February meeting

Item # 3 Forwarded to the NHMC Mooring Committee questions / concerns from the Norwalk Seaport Association regarding Sheffield Harbor moorings and the Visitor Dock federal channel setback.

Item # 4 Forwarded to NHMC Mooring Committee, Total Marine mooring application renewal progress

Item # 5 Forwarded to NHMC Mr. Paul Brashi request for application / project guidance

Item # 6 Forwarded to NHMC DEEP COP # 201615724 Mr. Bill Nagler

Item # 7 Forwarded to NHMC Mr. Michael Arbisi, new mooring guidance

Waterfront Advisory Report

Item # 1 Progress on the Veterans Park launch ramps and parking lot areas continues.

Item # 2 At present above work is anticipated to be complete by no later than May 01, 2017.

Item # 3 2017 staffing of the launch ramp and visitors dock areas is scheduled to begin at the end of April or beginning of May, project and weather dependent.

Item # 4 The seasonal Veterans Park ice skating rink will be closed disassembled and removed by April 1, 2017

- ** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE HARBORMASTER AND WATERFRONT ADVISORY REPORTS AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** DR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mooring Committee

Mr. Santella submitted his report as follows:

Renewal instructions for the 2017 season were e-mailed to each mooring applicant.

The Online Mooring System continues to show substantial compliance and improvement and the Committee continues to monitor and address issues and concerns from applicants for the 2017 season.

There was discussion on the need to reach out with more communications to provide further information on-line mooring system. It was agreed that e-mail notifications are adequate and the system is gradually being utilized with greater awareness.

Harbor Safety – no report.

Bridges Committee Report

Mr. Mobilia reported that they committee did not meet due to meeting schedule conflicts and noted that it is still not yet 30% designed. He noted that predictions are for another two years. There was discussion on no answer back on the consultant recommendation, and it was agreed to have Dr. Pinto make a follow up call.

The next meeting will be March 8, 1 p.m. with the Coast Guard, the Mayor, DOT/USCG/ACOE. Purpose is to provide a design process update for the Walk Bridge project and general discussion regarding navigational channel, pile removal, and dredging. It was noted that Application Review Committee should attend, and a meeting notice will follow.

Application Review Committee

Dr. Pinto presented the following application:

CAM Application - 32 Shorefront Park- Construction of single family residence

Dr. Pinto referred to the drawings as presented and asked John Altamura, the representative in attendance to present the application. Questions and comments from the Commissioners were fielded.

The following letter was presented from the Committee:

The Norwalk Harbor Management Commission (NHMC) has reviewed the Coastal Area Management Application submitted to the Zoning Commission by D'Andrea Surveying and Engineering, PC (the Applicant) on behalf of Christopher and Gail Thompson. The Applicant proposes construction of a single family residence at 32 Shorefront Park.

As the proposal affects property on, in, or contiguous to the area of jurisdiction of the NHMC and Norwalk Harbor Management Plan, it is subject to review by the NHMC to determine its consistency with the Harbor Management Plan. The NHMC understands that no work on the property is being proposed at this time that would require approval by the State of Connecticut.

During its meeting on February 22, 2017, the NHMC approved a motion to: a) find the proposal consistent with the Harbor Management Plan provided the Zoning Commission determines the proposed project meets current FEMA guidelines for coastal construction; and b) transmit the following recommendations to the Zoning Commission and Applicant.

Comments:

The Applicant should be required to employ appropriate Best Management Practices during construction to ensure that the proposed work, including removal of debris, does not cause any significant adverse impacts on environmental quality, including water quality, in Norwalk Harbor.

The Applicant's project should incorporate appropriate measures to reduce or otherwise manage storm water runoff from the property into Norwalk Harbor following completion of the project.

Please be advised that the NHMC reserves its right to continue to review and comment on the Applicant's proposal at such time as it may be modified or when additional information concerning the proposal may be available.

- ** DR. PINTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE CAM APPLICATION FOR 32 SHOREFRONT PARK BASED ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE ABOVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS.**
- ** MR. ROMANO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Finance Committee - No report.

There was mention of reimbursements due to Ms. Schaefer that were submitted in December and remain unpaid.

Shellfish Commission

Mr. Johnson reported that seed permits are being redone based on state standards for oysters and shellfish beds. He noted that there is a plan in development with partners to plant Steamers, and he described the seeding process.

There was discussion on the Rowing club temporary relocation up the river that presents a dangerous situation with limited visibility at the pre-dawn early hours. It was noted that this should be brought up to Parks & Recreation.

Plans and Recommendations Committee Report – no report

Water Quality

Mr. Steadman noted that he is meeting next Monday with Mr. Hart and they have heard nothing back from comments from the DEEP/DOT on the Yankee Doodle Bridge. It was noted that a public hearing can be petitioned if there is no response, and the poor communication continues to get worse.

Mr. Mobilia noted that the Mayor is putting together a Water Quality Committee and he has given names to Alexis of members to be recommended.

Newsletter/Website –

Ms. Schaefer reported that she is planning the next newsletter, and welcomes suggestions and recommendations for timely and relevant topics as this is the beginning of the boating season.

Nomination Committee

Dr. Pinto reviewed the slate of officers as presented from the Nominating Committee.

Tony Mobilia, Chairman; Joe Perella, Vice Chair; Dennis Santella, Secretary.

Dr. Pinto called for nominations from the floor; and hearing none, he closed the nominations for officers.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR A ONE-YEAR TEAM:**

**TONY MOBILIA, CHAIRMAN; JOE PERELLA, VICE CHAIR;
DENNIS SANTELLA, SECRETARY.**

**** MR. ROMANO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Mobilia thanked the Commission for the Ms. Schaefer extended congratulations to the officers on their elected positions.

Minutes

January 25, 2017: Application Review Committee:

Page 2, paragraph 4: Remove the last two sentences (they are repeated in last paragraph)

Last paragraph, change Pilot to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service research vessel.

In the last motion change Mobilia to Pinto.

**** MS. SCHAEFER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2017 AS AMENDED WITH CORRECTIONS NOTED.**

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

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Adjournment

**** MR. ROMANO MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**

**** DR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
M.Knox;
Telesco Secretarial Services