

**MILFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 15, 2010**

The Milford Harbor Management Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2010 in the conference room at Milford Landing. Chairman Montano called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Commission Members Present

N. Bodick  
R. Brennan  
R. Miller  
G. Montano  
D. Newman  
A. Waterman  
R. Winters

Also Present

R. Swift, Operations Director, Harbormaster

Not Present

J. Beard  
R. Post  
L. Bodick, Deputy Harbormaster  
B. Bier, Alderman Liaison  
N. Veccharelli, Alderman Liaison

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of February 18, 2010 were presented. Mr. Brennan made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Waterman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Three Boy Scouts from Troop #721, St. Mary's School, and one of their mothers attended the meeting to observe as part of a merit badge.

Chairman's Report – Mr. Montano introduced David Provencher of Coastline Consulting & Development. Mr. Provencher presented a new dock project at 275 Housatonic Drive, site of Wetzel property. Its frontage is Beaver Brook and the marsh south of US 1. It is proposed to be a 6' x 16' floating dock elevated off the bottom as required by ACOE. The pier will be dead center of the property. The brook is narrow so the pier will stop before the Mean Low Water (MLW) mark and there will be a ramp down to a floating dock. The float will be used to launch and retrieve canoes and kayaks. The property owners will go with the CT DEP recommendations to remove it during the winter months.

Mr. Provencher stated that CT DEP and the State Aquaculture Department have signed off on approving the preliminary application.

Ms. Bodick wanted to know if the picture showing a dock was the neighbors' property. It is. And nothing will be permanently tied to the face of it? It will not.

Mr. Montano wanted to know the specifics of the length. It will be a 49½' pier, 24' ramp and the 6' x 16' float. A length of 80' overall. The Wetzel's are hoping to receive local approval to do some terracing of the property landside of the pier starting point.

The question was raised about taking the decking off during the growing season. It is not required but is desirable. 4' x 4' sections can be made for this purpose. During the winter, ice build up may occur so it should be done for preservation of the pier.

Mr. Waterman stated that he thinks it is out a little too far into the channel and it should be moved back 8' or so. Mr. Provencher said that it was planned to minimize encroachment but still have water for launching. Mr. Miller stated that only small boats go up the creek so it really would not be in the way. Mr. Provencher is concerned that if the float were moved then it would be covering wetlands

which would not be approved by the CT DEP. Discussion ensued regarding moving the dock back to the MLW line. It is elevated in the plans on float stops. To move it further landward, the face of the dock would not be over water at some tides and the property owners would have to wait longer to utilize the dock. Mr. Miller does not think that more than 2' would be picked up by moving the dock landward because of the wetlands.

Mr. Swift wanted to know if the neighbors had been approached yet. Mr. Provencher stated that they had not. There is a 40 day notice period before approval/disapproval of the application and that is when a copy of the notice will be sent to the neighbors for comment.

Ms. Bodick wanted to know if the wording in the permit contained language that the dock was to be used for a landing dock or a launching dock only. It is stated that it will be for launching purposes only.

Mr. Montano questioned whether language was contained regarding winter removal. Mr. Provencher stated that the CT DEP specifies that in these types of permits.

Mr. Waterman made a motion to accept the proposed dock application with the recommendation to have Coastline Consulting look into the possibilities of moving the waterside face of the floating dock back to the Mean Low Water mark in order to be consistent with the neighboring dock. Mr. Winters seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report – Weather has been great. This has been one of the best springs to get the property in order for the season. Everything is ahead of schedule

Mr. Swift spoke to Mr. Bruce Kolwicz of Public Works in regards to the submarine painting. It is on his list of things to do. The Boy Scout volunteers mentioned at the last meeting unfortunately cannot help out as it is a two (2) part epoxy paint.

The tent is up. It was taken out of storage and cleaned. It looks presentable and will last another season.

Mr. Swift has been working on the pump-out. The oil that the manufacturer recommended locked it solid. The chamber was cleaned out and different oil was used. It now works. After about 5 minutes, the pump-out needs to be shut off, allowed to drain and turned on again. However, it is usable.

Mr. Swift spoke to Rick Huntley of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) regarding Milford's pre-application for a grant. Mr. Huntley is waiting for money from the federal government for the 2011 year grants. A new pump-out costs approximately \$20,000 of which 80% would be covered under a grant. There is also a process for repair funds; however the boating season would be over by the time monies would be received.

Recently, there have been articles regarding dredging of Clinton, Westbrook and the Housatonic River using the Currituck, side pump dredge, to maintain federal channels. Geoff Steadman is going to write up some letters to back this operation of the special purpose dredge for near shore disposal. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is for the operation. The CT DEP is holding it up.

Geoff Steadman contacted the ACOE about Milford Harbor. A survey is needed. The ACOE explained that they would need evidence supporting the necessity of a survey. Rich Wincapaw, floating dock contractor, will be putting the floating docks back next week. As part of the process, he will be doing an underwater inspection. Some of the gear was new last year so he was underwater then. He can compare it to what is there this year and see how much silting has occurred. This could suffice as the supporting evidence.

A survey of the marina is also needed. Big rainfalls are causing silting. A consultant and an engineering firm will need to be hired shortly to start the permit/dredging process. Mr. Waterman made a motion to have Mr. Swift request quotes to have a survey of the marina done from the terminus of the federal channel to the end of the marina by the foot bridge. Mr. Brennan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Harbormaster's Report – none

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing – Mr. Waterman reported that it looks good. Mr. Waterman was approached by Dennis Warren regarding planting a small tree in memory of Jacquelyn Matchett. Mr. Warren would purchase the tree, plant it, purchase the plaque and set it. Mr. Swift reported that he has turned away about one-half (½) dozen people in the past four (4) years for similar requests. Sometime ago, before Mr. Swift came on, it had been decided to stop the memorial plaques as they were getting numerous. However, if the commission felt that this should be an exception, Mr. Swift would go along. Discussion was held. Mr. Waterman dropped his request.

Finance – Fund balance as of 04/14/10 was \$265,010.13 in savings and \$64,294.83 in checking for a total of \$329,304.96. Mr. Swift reported that on revenue vs. expenses, the commission is still ahead.

Harbor and Mooring – no report

Housatonic – no report

Amendments – no report

Correspondence – Laurel Beach received approval on their permit application to relocate sand.

Old Business – none

New Business – none

Liaisons

Stratford - no report

Aldermen – no report

P & Z - no report

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Tougas  
Recording Secretary