

**MILFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
October 15, 2009**

The Milford Harbor Management Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2009 in the conference room at Milford Landing. Vice-Chairman Beard called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

Commission Members Present

J. Beard
N. Bodick
R. Brennan
D. Newman
R. Post
A. Waterman

Not Present

R. Miller
G. Montano
R. Winters
R. Swift, Operations Director, Harbormaster
B. Bier, Alderman Liaison
N. Veccharelli, Alderman Liaison

Also Present

L. Bodick, Deputy Harbormaster

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 17, 2009 were presented. Mr. Post made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Waterman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – None

Chairman's Report – None

Director's Report – None

Harbormaster's Report – Ms. Tougas reported for Mr. Swift that mooring renewals are coming back slowly.

Mr. Bodick reported that he, Mr. Swift and Mr. Waterman attended the Connecticut Harbor Management Association annual meeting. Only a few towns mentioned the state PILOT fund problem.

Ms. Tougas reported that an email was just received stating that Mr. Lor Cubbison had passed his driving test and was looking into the insurance.

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing – no report

Finance - Fund balance as of 09/30/09 was \$264,551.70 in savings and \$32,764.55 in checking for a total of \$297,316.25. All bills are paid. Mr. Rich Wincapaw has been paid for all except one helix retrofit. It is to be billed separately.

Harbor and Mooring – Mr. Newman questioned when the Housatonic River state boat ramp was closed. He saw someone using it about three (3) weeks ago and wondered if they were going around the fence. It is a state ramp and the state DEP should be contacted if someone is indeed going around the fence and using it. Mr. Newman will check on this.

Housatonic – Mr. Post stated that he saw somewhere where dredging was listed in a stimulus package for Stratford. Mr. Bodick said that it had been mentioned in passing at the CHMA meeting. Mr. Beard stated that Stratford had received some award and dredging was mentioned there as well. Mr. Bodick said that Stratford was going to clean up the old AVCO building and perhaps the dredging was lumped in with that. No actual dredging has been done as yet.

Amendments – no report

Correspondence – The anonymous letter regarding Briarpatch's operation on Harborview Avenue was passed around to the commissioners. It was agreed to send a copy to Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Follini.

Old Business – See the harbormasters report for an update on Mr. Cubbison.

In regards to the Wepawaug River Ponds dredging, Mr. Beard wondered if it could be tackled on a local level to make it more presentable, at least restoring the riverbank and the views. Mr. Post would like all three ponds to be done at the same time. Ms. Bodick wanted to know if a permit is needed to cut branches. Mr. Post suggested getting rid of invasive species and putting in native plantings. Mr. Beard will go with Ms. Bodick to see MaryRose Palumbo of the Inland/Wetlands Commission and get something started.

New Business – Ms. Tougas explained to the commission the PILOT fund problem and fix. An email was received from Mr. Geoff Steadman on September 22, 2009. He'd emailed the Office of Legislative Research about the PILOT funds being eliminated and they'd responded in the affirmative showing section 394 of the new budget and the legislation that was enacted. A monthly newsletter email from the Connecticut Marine Trades Association was received on October 5, 2009. On page 6 under Budget Cuts/Increases was a section that read as if the Governor had restored the funds a few days before. Mr. Swift met with the Mayor on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 regarding the issue. The mayor contacted Hartford that day and got back to Mr. Swift in the afternoon confirming that the funds would still be received at the end of December. The agenda went out before knowing that the funds had been restored.

Mr. Beard was not surprised that the funds were almost taken away and that he's been advocating a Plan B for years. Ms. Bodick stated that it would be easy for the state to take it away but not that easy for the town to re-allocate it to a different department. Too many local people would protest. Ms. Bodick is going to double check with the legislative liaison at CMTA, verify it and email everyone. Mr. Beard asked for suggestions as to what to do if it did disappear. Mr. Post questioned who gets monies from the PILOT fund. A copy of the list of the municipalities receiving PILOT funds was passed around. It is frozen based on the 1978 grand list. Mr. Beard would like Ms. Gayle Slossberg contacted in regards to the legal status of the PILOT fund. Can the assembly legally put it back into the State General Fund any time they like?

Liaisons

Stratford - no report

Aldermen – no report

P & Z - no report

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Tougas
Recording Secretary