

**MILFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
October 16, 2008**

The Milford Harbor Management Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2008 in the conference room at Milford Landing. Chairman Montano called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Commission Members Present

J. Beard
N. Bodick
R. Brennan
R. Miller
G. Montano
D. Newman
R. Post

Also Present

R. Swift, Operations Director

Not Present

A. Waterman
R. Winters
L. Bodick, Deputy Harbormaster
B. Bier, Alderman Liaison
N. Veccharelli, Alderman Liaison
R. Hatfield, Stratford Liaison

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 18, 2008 were presented. Ms. Bodick pointed out a correction to be made in the Director's Report. The abbreviation "NFTA" should be "NFPA". Ms. Bodick made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Mr. Newman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – None

Chairman's Report – None

Director's Report – Mr. Swift reported that the boating season of 2008 is wrapping up. No reservations will probably come in until January 2, 2009. The bubbler system and a few minor repairs will be worked on shortly.

Quite a few people responded that they were first time visitors at the marina. The flyer advertising the mid-week specials was reported as being posted in various places on the Sound.

Harbormaster's Report – Mr. Swift made several tours of the mooring fields in Milford Harbor. Some boats are out already. Hopefully, everyone will be out by November 1, 2008 or we will need to track the owners down and remind them to move the boats so the floats can be winterized.

The helix retrofit has not gone out to bid yet. It is typed and ready to go. Approximately \$ 80,000 per phase will be spent. Mr. Swift wanted to get the go ahead from the harbor commission first. Transient fees from the next few years should cover the expense. The look ahead is that the marina will probably have some average years but probably no exceptional years for revenue. The okay was given to have Purchasing go ahead with the bid.

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing – None

Finance - Fund balance as of 10/01/08 was \$286,867.60 in savings and \$138,446.53 in checking for a total of \$425,314.13. All bills are paid. The helix retrofit expense for the first year will probably occur on or about May 1, 2009.

Harbor and Mooring – Mooring applications and fees are starting to come in.

Housatonic – None

Amendments – Mr. Beard reported that the amendments to the city ordinances were given to the city attorney. The amendments came back to the harbor commission office for review and were returned to the city attorney with several changes noted. The harbor commission office is awaiting the revisions for review before advertising. The proposed changes must be advertised 5 days before the next Ordinance committee meeting of the Board of Alderman. The meeting is set for November 6, 2008 so the deadline for advertisement is October 31, 2008.

Correspondence – The Connecticut Marine Trades Association expo date was changed to October 23, 2008. It runs from 12:00 noon to 8:00 PM. The speaker is at 6:30 PM with refreshments being served at 5:30 PM. Mr. Swift took a head count of those wishing to attend from the harbor commission.

Mr. Swift reported on a meeting at the Mayor's Office with the Oyster Festival Committee and a representative of the US Naval Academy. The Navy 44 sailing vessels make the rounds of the East Coast each year and they would like to make a stop in Milford. The Oyster Festival Committee is interested in having this coincide with the Festival. The representative would prefer it be July 4th, because they usually go to Freeport, NY every year around the date of the Oyster Festival. A lot of fundraising is involved which is why the Festival date is preferable for Milford. Arrangements would be made to have the vessel crews' board at the University of New Haven or Sacred Heart University. The crews would take alternate watches and shore leave. Those on watch would give tours of the vessels while docked; no cruises would be done. The PT boat will not be coming back for the Oyster Festival in 2009. The schooner will be. The Navy 44's would fill up the space on the launch ramp docks. Mr. Brennan is worried about the draft of the vessels. He seemed to think the drafts were 9' as opposed to the reported 7' draft by the representative.

Old Business – No meeting has been held regarding the Wepawaug Ponds dredging. Mooring float upgrade status reported under Director's report.

New Business – The rock near the entrance to Milford Harbor will be remarked with a rock buoy next year. Milford Yacht Club has approached Ms. Bodick already in regards to having this done.

The budget package for 2009 – 2010 has been picked up. The Mayor didn't say too much on the subject of reducing expenses except to "read the headlines".

Mr. Brennan proposed the idea of renting out the unsold floating dock spaces in the Milford Harbor mooring fields to transients. Mr. Swift reported that transients do call and request a mooring space because it is typically less expensive. When they find out we don't have any, they anchor out at Charles Island or go elsewhere. It was felt by several commissioners that once transients find out there are transient moorings available boaters would just tie up to an empty space and take a chance at not getting caught. The harbor commission would have to hire one or two more kids to run the workboat, monitor the mooring fields and collect fees. This would require the kids having a boating license and would add expenses to an already barebones operation. Mr. Swift stated that he only has \$38,000 to work with for seasonal help. From 3 PM to closing on Sunday through Thursdays he only has 2 working because there is safety in numbers and not as many are needed right now for those shifts. If they needed to go out to the mooring fields, one or two additional kids would be needed on those shifts alone.

It was suggested that perhaps Milford Yacht Club would be willing to monitor transients, collect fees and split them with the harbor commission. Since Milford Yacht Club is a closed community and members are around, only one kid on some shifts is required. Cost of running the workboat/launch, insurance for the boat and kids are also to be considered. The question of insurance requirements for use of floating docks was also discussed. It was pointed out that sometimes cruising groups have to split up between several places in the harbor because there are too many to accommodate at the marina. Perhaps something can be done if that occurs.

Liaisons

Stratford - no report

Aldermen – no report

P & Z - no report

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Tougas
Recording Secretary