

MINUTES

Milford Harbor Management Commission, October 19, 2023, 7:00 P.M., Lisman Landing

, as corrected, Board Members, Liaisons and Staff Present:

Robert Brennan, Chairman

Nancy Bennett, Secretary

Raymond Kirmaier

Dora Kubek

Richard Preneta

Dylan Mark

John Nevin

James Donegan, Harbormaster

Lee Henschman, Deputy Harbormaster

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent: Jim Beard, Joseph Gilbert, Raymond Vitali (Board of Aldermen)

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Consideration of the minutes of the meeting of 21 September 2023

A motion by Mr. Kirmaier and seconded by Mr. Preneta to accept the minutes, as corrected, of the 21 September 2023 meeting passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None.

Chairman's Report : R. Brennan

Chairman Brennan said he and Mr. Donegan met with several groups participating in the dredging project to discuss an accident involving a DEEP boat running over a NOAA boom being used by the Army Corps as a filtration curtain.

He said had a favorable meeting with Mayor Smith.

Chairman Brennan expressed concern about boats left in the harbor after the removal deadline of October 15th. He then reviewed other items on the agenda that he wished to postpone, including discussion about a consultant to write or update the harbor plan and the need to address language in mooring contracts regarding "live-aboard" parameters. Mr. Donegan said the current agreement covers the harbor and Housatonic River and was rewritten with input from the City Attorney's Office but can be modified. He shared a copy of the agreement with the group and Ms. Bennett suggested that everyone read it and mark it up for next month. It was noted that mooring renewals will go out after 1/1/24.

Permit Reviews: None.

Director's Report/ Harbormaster Report: J. Donegan

Mr. Donegan reported that the dredger arrived on the 10th and reviewed the placement of boats close to the channel and flagged these areas on a drawing. He described the types of cuts to be made, for example at the Milford Yacht Club, mostly a box cut straight down can be used, whereas the southern end may require a slope. He said the yacht club had moved all boats of concern, and Port Milford is aware of the approach of the dredger. He said some boats at the north end of Spencer's Marina were flagged and 2 other state boats (aquaculture) were also flagged. He said the yacht club must address some very large boats because the Army Corps doesn't allow boats to protrude into the channel. He said he sits in on weekly status updates, and so far, the Corps is happy with progress being made. Mr. Brennan commended Mr. Donegan's calm handling of a challenging, multi-faceted process.

Mr. Donegan said that just before the dredger started, the 55 boats left in the mooring field had been reduced to 4 using urgent emails and phone calls. One boat still must be dealt with.

He said the mayor signed the Hazlett agreement, the purchase order is ready, and Hazlett can deliver their product by the end of year. This is timely because it's needed by 2/1.

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He reported great progress with pulling helixes, saying Waterfront Contracting has had a diver in the water every day. Discussion of dredging procedures ensued. Mr. Brennan said many of the helixes are in surprisingly good shape, but some have wear on the lower ring. The discussion then turned to how best to reinsert anchors once they are examined and cleaned. Ms. Bennett noted that Milford was an early adopter of marine use of this equipment in the US. Mr. Donegan commented that this exercise will remedy the current lack of good helix inventory records.

Mr. Donegan said he got quotes for replacing the outboard motor on the skiff but needs the commission to approve a transfer of funds from savings to checking. The aldermanic board would then have to approve the transfer request before submitting the quotes to get a purchase order cut. He said a 40-horsepower model with a tiller was needed, preferably without a pull cord. He noted that a 40-horsepower Yamaha was available for \$9568.90 from Milford Boat Works and that this price includes labor to remove the old motor and install the new one, but does not include freight charges. He noted that the boat must be washed, scraped, and painted, and that he has a quote for \$1496 for that job.

Ms. Kubek made and Mr. Nevin seconded a motion to transfer funds not to exceed \$14,000 from savings to checking to purchase the motor plus labor and freight.

Mr. Donegan reported that the Founders Walk project needs to address the infrastructure of outfalls pipes entering the harbor area. He said the project was consistent with the harbor management plan, supporting cleanup and improved safety for accessing the boat launch and extending the park. Mr. Donegan estimated the project may start in spring.

Deputy Harbormaster Report: L. Henchman

Mr. Henchman said that Harbormaster Jim Donegan informed mooring holders they would lose their renewal options if the 2023 Inspection was not received by 11/20. The result was that most of the inspections were submitted. Mr. Henchman then printed the Inspection Forms received from mooring owners, who used Housatonic Boat Club as their diver, and had the Vice Commodore of the Housatonic Boat Club sign the Inspection Forms indicating Housatonic Boat Club as the diver of record.

Mr. Henchman shared a conversation he had with the Stratford Harbormaster regarding jet skis launched from the State Boat Launch Ramp, under I-95, and transiting through the marsh at 70+ mph. Mr. Henchman said he would try to engage the Milford Police Department, but believed that the State has jurisdiction. Mr. Donegan said he needs to call CT DEEP for help, with a goal of providing boaters guides with maps for no-wake zones. Mr. Donegan said the boaters guide will be finalized in next few weeks for winter boat shows, need to follow up with DEEP to get a graphic into that guide, then send to them to boat clubs, marinas and circulate and post the information. Mr. Henchman said many boaters respect no-wake buoys at the mouth of the Housatonic River, while others commit flagrant abuses.

Mr. Henchman suggested outfitting the skiff at Milford Landing with MIFORD HARBORMASTER signage, and a light, so the vessel could be used as a supplemental presence during events, and in general, around Milford Harbor when needed.

Ms. Bennett made, and Mr. Nevin seconded, a motion stating that outfalls for stormwater are consistent with harbor plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of Standing Committees

Lisman Landing (Dylan Mark, John Nevin): **None**

Finance (Bob Brennan, Nancy Bennett):

Checking \$ 297664.68

Savings \$ 271768.61

Total \$ 569433.29

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Discussion ensued

Nominating Committee (James Beard, Nancy Bennett) **None**

Harbor & Mooring (Richard Preneta, Bob Brennan) **Discussed previously.**

Housatonic (Raymond Kirmaier, Dora Kubek) **None**

Amendments (James Beard, Joseph Gilbert) **None**

Shell Fishing (Robert Brennan, Joseph Gilbert, Ray Kirmaier) **None**

Correspondence: None.

Old Business

20 Rogers Avenue – P&Z Updates: Nothing new.

Channel & Anchorage Dredging – Covered.

Ct. Port Authority – SHIPPS Grant: Nothing new.

Memorial Plaque—Nothing new.

New Business: Harbor Management Plan & 2024 Mooring Agreement Review discussed earlier, will be discussed next month. There was discussion of recreational vehicle fueling displacing coastguard boats.

Liaisons – None.

Ms. Bennett made, and Mr. Nevin seconded, a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:43. The motion passed unanimously.

The executive session ended at 8:26

Adjournment was at 8:28 pm.

Attest: M.E. Greene, recording sec'y

Any individual with a disability who needs special assistance to participate in the meeting should contact the Operations Director, 874-1610, five days prior to the meeting if possible.