

Milford Harbor Management Commission, November 17, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Milford Landing

Board Members, Liaisons and Staff Present:

Robert Brennan, Chairman
Joseph Gilbert, Vice-Chairman
Nancy Bennett, Secretary
Jim Beard
Raymond Kirmaier
Dora Kubek
Dylan Mark
John Nevin

Staff

James Donegan, Harbormaster/Director
Lee Henchman, Deputy Harbormaster

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent:

Richard Preneta
Gregory Harla, Board of Alders
Raymond Vitali, Board of Alders

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 6:57 PM.

Consideration of the minutes of the regular Meeting of October 20, 2022

A motion by Mr. Mark and seconded by Ms. Kubek to approve the minutes of October 20, 2022 passed unanimously.

Public Comments: Andrew Wilhelm, 12 Daytona Avenue, asked for information on behalf of local shellfish fishermen regarding the sustainability of local beds. Chairman Brennan said the commission expects to receive a University of Connecticut-sponsored report on oyster beds in the coming months.

Chairman's Report: R. Brennan

Chairman Brennan said he and Mr. Donegan had worked together on several items to be presented under the director's report. He asked for a vote on the 2023 meeting date schedule, pointing out that Dec. 14 is the 2nd Thursday of that month. The calendar was approved unanimously.

Director/Harbormaster Report: J. Donegan

Mr. Donegan said the marina and mooring field have been winterized with inspections completed and some repairs required; none of them major. He said boat ramp floats won't be removed until the fishermen are gone in December.

He presented a new rate sheet with highlighted items indicating proposed changes. He said the marina rates adjustments are still comparatively low compared with other nearby marinas. He proposed changing the fee structure for hourly rates because current rates get confusing, especially on busy weekends. He said he researched other marinas and suggested charging 1 dollar per foot for up to a 3-hour block of time, noting that charging by the hour creates impossible enforcement issues. Ms. Bennet asked when an overnight rental is triggered with this system; Mr. Donegan said after 3 hours. She agreed that keeping the system very simple will help avoid conflicts.

He discussed the need for an increase in mooring fields rates, suggesting 1 dollar more per foot. He said current fees have been steady for years while operating costs have risen. He noted that the trend has been toward the size of boats getting smaller, with an average size of 30' in the harbor and slightly larger on the Housatonic. He said smaller boats will affect the revenue stream but still incur the same operating expenses. He discussed the pricing change approval process.

The group reviewed a sketch for housing non-motorized boats with separate spaces for individual dinghies and kayaks. The new storage fee structure was designed to ease transitional costs for people currently storing multiple items in one larger space. He said all boats must be out by end of season or will be disposed of.

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Mr. Nevin said he approved of the new fees and that he felt they still provided good value and supported the mission of bringing people into town. Ms. Bennett agreed and seconded the motion for the new fees. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Beard and seconded by Ms. Bennett to put the rack construction project out to bid was approved unanimously.

Mr. Donegan noted that mooring contracts end 11/1 but this year 25 boats were still in the harbor after this date and that the boats are in the way when docks are being removed. He said he saw a need to revise mooring agreement to ensure timely removal. Discussion ensued noting that dredging is scheduled for next year. There was agreement that boats left on mooring should receive penalties, perhaps via non-renewal of the subsequent year's lease.

Deputy Harbormaster Report: L. Henchman

Mr. Henchman reviewed the current mooring waiting list saying the harbor should be able to accommodate all on list. He said he will explore how to build the cost of inspections into renewals. He also had positive comments about a meeting he, Mr. Donegan, and Mr. Brennan had with Yolanda Cooley from DEEP at the Bayview Beach Association.

Permit Reviews: None

Report of Standing Committees

Lisman Landing (Dylan Mark, John Nevin): None

Finance (Bob Brennan, Nancy Bennett)

Checking = \$271,521.04, Savings = \$217,677, for a total of \$489,197.04

Nominating Committee (James Beard, Nancy Bennett): None

Harbor & Mooring (Richard Preneta, Bob Brennan): Discussed above.

Housatonic (Raymond Kirmaier, Dora Kubek): None

Amendments (James Beard, Joseph Gilbert): None

Shell Fishing (Robert Brennan, Joseph Gilbert, Ray Kirmaier) Current resources in both the Gulf Pond/Indian River and Housatonic were reported to be abundant. Discussion ensued about the impact of dredging silt on young oysters.

Correspondence: None

Old Business

- 20 Rogers Ave – Ms. Kubek shared some public information gathered from Planning and Zoning.
- Channel and anchorage dredging –Discussed earlier.
- CT Port Authority—SHIPPS: Mr. Donegan said grants for special projects will be awarded. He said a plan to remove dredged materials from New London to the Stratford area was causing some concern.
- Memorial Plaques—The Department of Public Works said it may change plan slightly.

New Business: None

Liaisons - Stratford: Not present

Aldermen: Not present

Adjournment was at 8:02.

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.

Respectfully submitted by M.E. Greene reviewed by RMB.