

**MILFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2009**

The Milford Harbor Management Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2009 in the conference room at Milford Landing. Chairman Montano called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present

R. Brennan
G. Montano
R. Post
A. Waterman
R. Winters

Also Present

R. Swift, Operations Director, Harbormaster

Not Present

J. Beard
N. Bodick
R. Miller
D. Newman
L. Bodick, Deputy Harbormaster
B. Bier, Alderman Liaison
N. Veccharelli, Alderman Liaison

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 15, 2009 were presented. Mr. Waterman made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Post seconded. Mr. Post requested that the sentence under Old Business "Mr. Post would like all three ponds to be done at the same time." be changed to reflect his statement that it would be nice if all three ponds could be done at the same time but if necessary break it down to one pond at a time so that the ponds do get done. Motion carried unanimously with the change.

Public Comments – Happy Thanksgiving

Chairman's Report – Mr. Montano reported that he attended the Connecticut Maritime Commission meeting on Wednesday November 18, 2009 at the Bridgeport Aquaculture School. Dredging updates were given. The City of Bridgeport was represented by 6 or 7 officials. They presented a 5 to 6 year plan with regards to construction and improvements along 12 miles of waterfront within the city. A lot of mixed usage is planned. Some of the waters are contaminated which needs to be dealt with. Derecktor Shipyards in Bridgeport received a 2.9 million dollar grant for dry dock modifications from the Federal Maritime Administration's Assistance Program. The meeting agenda was passed around for review.

Director's Report – Mr. Swift reported that he has been winterizing the marina. The bubbler system is in and working. Mr. Swift left one set of floats at the launch ramp area for use until after Thanksgiving since the weather has been cooperative.

The electric project for power to the commercial coolers has been coming along. Public Works has been very helpful. The transformer that leads to the meter is in. The project will open up outlets on the marina dock for use during the season.

The bulkhead painting is mostly done. The rest will be done in the spring. A two (2) part epoxy from Colony Paint was used. Mr. Swift reported that the underlying bulkhead is in good shape.

The city did a great job repainting the pedestrian bridge. A float was utilized to paint the underside.

All of the plants on the bridge survived the summer. None were stolen or vandalized this year.

Rich Wincapaw has been bringing in the floating docks from the mooring fields. He is working with the tide and will probably finish up next week.

Mr. Winters questioned Mr. Swift on the broken bushes by the street. Mr. Swift said that they were a result of a car accident and he was waiting to see what came back and what did not. Mr. Swift will request a backhoe come in the spring to take them out and something else will be planted there.

Harbormaster's Report – Renewals are coming in slowly with a bit more than half back at this time.

Lor Cubbison has received his driver's license and purchased insurance. He is not off of his mooring at this time. He was sent a letter stating that he must be off his mooring for the winter before his application for 2010 will be accepted. If he does not vacate his mooring, another letter will need to be sent regarding eviction. The problem becomes of who would remove the boat and where to take it if it is necessary to remove it from the mooring.

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing – no report

Finance – Fund balance as of 10/31/09 was \$264,630.35 in savings and \$73,040.30 in checking for a total of \$337,670.65. Mr. Swift reported that as of 11/19/09 expenses were roughly \$137,000 and revenues were about \$164,000. Transient revenue is down but expenses have also gone down. A pretty good spring is needed to cover year end depreciation and other expenses. The first budget meeting for 2010/2011 with the Mayor and Finance Director is scheduled for December 15. The finance office fills in some of the budget figures and Mr. Swift will see those figures at that meeting.

Harbor and Mooring – Mr. Montano brought up a discussion that took place at the Connecticut Maritime Commission meeting. Some harbormasters are trying to bring the Army Corps of Engineers pumper dredge up to Connecticut. It was proposed that the towns raise the money and perhaps the ACOE could operate it. The ACOE seemed receptive with some conditions attached regarding water depth and how close to the shoreline they would operate. John Gaucher, DEP, mentioned Westbrook and Milford shoaling and that the pumper would be ideal in those situations. Mr. Post wanted to know how the DEP permitting process would work in that case. Would it be done under a maintenance permit? A COP, certificate of permission, would probably be easier and faster.

Housatonic – no report

Amendments – no report

Correspondence – none

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

In regards to the Wepawaug River Ponds dredging, Mr. Swift will be meeting with the Town of Stratford's Conservation Administrator, Mr. Brian Carey. The lower Longbrook pond was just dredged. They hired a consultant, had engineered drawings, and contracted it out. Some bulkhead work was done. It took over a year and they spent approximately \$100,000 to remove 1,000 cubic yards. It was done under a permit for ponds and basins which allows up to 1,500 cubic yards to be removed. Perhaps in Milford's case, one pond could be done every few years. Mr. Post wanted to know if it would be the harbor commission's expense or Public works. Mr. Brennan wanted to know what the order of

pond dredging would be. It would be better to start with Eisenhower and work towards the harbor so loose silt comes downstream and doesn't fill up a pond already dredged. Mr. Swift said that Stratford opened a dam and diverted the water around to empty the pond for the dredging. That way stirred up silt wasn't going over the dam while working. Stratford held a public hearing, went in with a plan and asked for comments on the specific plan. Mr. Winters wanted to know if we have to commit our funds. Mr. Swift suggested that a plan be set up first. It was suggested that perhaps Eisenhower pond could be done under the federal stimulus funds for Eisenhower Park.

Mr. Winters wanted to know if a letter should be sent to the Attorney General in regards to the pilot funds. Mr. Brennan spoke to Ms. Gayle Slossberg and the legislators aren't aware of what the pilot funds are for. Mr. Winters suggested that maybe the legislators be educated. The general feeling was to wait on any action.

New Business – At the Oyster Festival in August, Mr. Swift was approached by Mr. Jay Pinto who introduced him to a William Malone. Mr. Malone owns the schooner "Jolly Roger". Key West is its home port. They spoke of perhaps bringing the schooner to Milford Harbor and operating it out of Milford for the summer season. Mr. Swift requested that Mr. Malone submit a business plan outlining parking, security, hours of operation, vessel requirements, and what would be the benefit of having it in Milford. Mr. Swift thought Mr. Malone would submit something before the commission meeting but nothing has arrived. Discussion on this is tabled pending a written business plan.

Liaisons

Stratford - no report

Aldermen – no report

P & Z - no report

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Tougas
Recording Secretary