

## **Milford Harbor Management Commission, January 19, 2023 7:00 P.M., Milford Landing**

### **Board Members, Liaisons and Staff Present:**

Robert Brennan, Chairman  
Nancy Bennett, Secretary  
Jim Beard  
Raymond Kirmaier  
Dora Kubek  
John Nevin  
Richard Preneta  
James Donegan, Harbormaster  
Lee Henschman, Deputy Harbormaster  
Gregory Harla, Board of Alders

### **Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent:**

Dylan Mark  
Joseph Gilbert, Vice-Chairman  
Raymond Vitali, Board of Alders

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He noted the presence of guests from the Rotary and Coast Guard Auxiliary and said their presentations would be heard earlier in the meeting as a courtesy. (See NEW BUSINESS.)

### **Consideration of the minutes of the regular Meeting of December 8, 2022**

A motion was made by Mr. Nevin and seconded by Mr. Beard to approve the minutes of December 8, 2022; it passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments, but Chairman Brennan recognized members of the Rotary, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and four Boy Scouts from Milford's Troop 1 who are working on Citizenship badges: Emilio Contreras, Padraic Long, Ryan Berendt, and Louis D'Amato.

### **Chairman's Report:** R. Brennan

Chairman Brennan congratulated Ms. Kubek and Mr. Kirmaier on their commission term renewals. He reviewed information provided by Mayor Blake regarding a wind energy installation on the New York side of Long Island Sound, and said that the commission would review plans in a consultant/alternate capacity. Mr. Donegan added that such review is part of the permitting process and he provided such details as he had regarding the location and objectives. He noted that there will be opportunities for public comments at various times, but as a consultant to the project, the commission would get information during the permitting process. Discussion ensued regarding other state dredging projects and funding from the Transportation and Infrastructure Act, and there was a short review of some of the logistics that will be required such as removal of the mooring field. It was noted that funding shortfalls must be filled by 11/1 and that the city is looking into as many funding areas as possible.

### **Director's Report/ Harbormaster Report:** J. Donegan

Mr. Donegan reported that dredging activity is still in the permitting process and had been publicly noticed. Related issues of water treatment and shoaling were also discussed. He noted the urgency of removing helixes and that the job must go out to bid soon. Discussion ensued about parts of the harbor that must be excluded from having dredged material moved to the central Sound due to contamination. Mr. Donegan explained that to contain sampling costs, two sample areas are composited, making it harder to pinpoint the location of contaminants if they are detected. Other dredging disposal methods will be considered.

Mr. Donegan said the office would begin accepting applications for bookings next week and that he had begun contacting cruise groups. He said the volume of reservations were similar to last year. He asked that the starting date for bookings be pushed to the second Monday in January. He said the dinghy racks plans and bid package were ready and had been forwarded to Purchasing. He said the Gulf beach fishing platform and sea wall repairs had also gone out to bid with a CT DEEP permit expected soon. Regarding Lisman Landing, he said that the top request from visitors is to improve

## Milford Harbor Management Commission, January 19, 2023 7:00 P.M., Milford Landing

the rest rooms, which were probably original to facility, and that his goal was to redo them before the start of the season. He said he was talking with Mayor Blake and Public Works about a redesign that will increase the number of toilets and showers but hold down costs. He said mooring rentals renewals will be sent out very soon and that he and Deputy Harbormaster Henschman had met with Dockwa on updating the reservation system. He said that information on price changes and the switch to individual kayak spaces on dingy racks will also go out--most likely in the next 2 weeks. He said he still must finalize mooring inspection costs for the Housatonic River marina and that he will be coming up with a specification. He said he is putting together 2023 seasonal staff, and that referrals were welcome from the commissioners. Discussion ensued on security ramp gates for the top of each gangway. He said he would need to send specifications to a fabricator, then a vote will be needed to transfer funds and be approved by the alders. Discussion ensued about enforcing boat removal prior to dredging and the plan to use lots of reminders and, if necessary, the prospect of nonrenewal as a strategy.

A motion was made by Mr. Preneta and seconded by Ms. Bennett to change the end-of-contract date to 10/15 this year to expedite dredging, with information to be shared with affected marinas; it passed unanimously.

### **Deputy Harbormaster Report:** L. Henschman

Mr. Henschman said 9 or 10 moorings were reassigned according to Dockwa, and that 2 are on the waiting list. He said 25 moorings had been lost to shoaling.

**Permit Reviews:** Chairman Brennan said there had been one permit application received for Housatonic Drive to build a dock for launching kayaks or paddleboards and swimming. It was noted that neighbors on either side have a similar set up. Ms. Bennett moved to approve; John Nevin seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **Report of Standing Committees**

Lisman Landing (Dylan Mark, John Nevin) None.

Finance (Bob Brennan, Nancy Bennett):

**Checking**     **\$184,144.78**

**Savings**     **\$271,565.42**

**Total**        **\$455,710.20**

Mr. Donegan said a positive cash flow was being realized as reservations were being accepted in the new year.

Nominating Committee (James Beard, Nancy Bennett) None.

Harbor & Mooring (Richard Preneta, Bob Brennan) The feasibility of making 60 Housatonic River moorings available for lease back is under review.

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: Nothing new to report.
- Channel and Anchorage: Covered above.
- Ct. Port Authority: Nothing new to report.
- Memorial Plaques: Work on leveling the patio around flagpole and cutting memorial stones is progressing.

### **New Business:**

#### Presentation—Coast Guard Auxiliary

Presenting were Mike Gabriel, 2 Rogers Avenue, and, Tom Violanti, of New Haven. Mr. Gabriel thanked the commission for the invitation to speak, noting that the Auxiliary wants to cooperate with the city and harbor management. He said the problem is that Boat 73 must be stored and previous storage options are no longer available. Discussion ensued about previous storage arrangements and the need for Lisman Landing to be self-funding. Reference was made to a 99-year lease agreement with the city that referenced providing space in the harbor for the CGA boat that was not used in

## **Milford Harbor Management Commission, January 19, 2023 7:00 P.M., Milford Landing**

recent years due to the Milford Yacht Club donating a slip. Then during Covid-19, the coast guard had to stand down, and the club saw fit to rent the donated slip. Other funding sources such as Homeland Security were discussed, but their funding was insufficient. Discussion ensued about the current mission of Coast Guard 73 in terms of rescue and patrols, noting that the vessel is on call 24/7. Twenty or 30 patrols are expected in the coming year. Chairman Brennan said he would discuss the lease agreement with the City Attorney's Office and then revisit the matter next month. A motion to table was made by Ms. Brennan, and seconded by Mr. Prenata; the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation—by the Milford Rotary

Phil Ucci, 204 Oronoque Road, Vice President

Robert Bogert, Site Chair for the Rotary Lobster Bake (coordinates logistics and is the liaison with city for permits)

Mr. Ucci thanked the commission for allowing last year's lobster bake to use Lisman landing. He noted that the event is their biggest fundraiser for the year, although reduced manpower scaled the event down. The event drew 800 patrons, and the club expects about the same amount this year with same vendors. Discussion ensued about problems with moving the event behind the library with Mr. Bogert noting that with limited manpower, having a smaller site is more manageable. He listed donations from the event that help the community. Chairman Brennan suggested parking volunteers behind the library to avoid impacting ice cream vendor/landing tenant Scooby Doo. Otherwise, the commission thought the event ran smoothly. Discussion of selling tickets to more transient boaters ensued balanced by the need to cut orders off in a timely way to order the food, capping ticket sales at about 1000.

Ms. Bennet moved to continue to hosting the event, seconded by Ms. Kubek. Discussion determined that the likely 2023 date will be July 15 or 22. The motion passed unanimously.

Liaisons – Stratford—None.

Adjournment at 8:50

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.