

**MILFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2010**

The Milford Harbor Management Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2010 in the conference room at Milford Landing. Chairman Montano called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present

J. Beard
R. Brennan
R. Miller
G. Montano
R. Post
A. Waterman
R. Winters

Also Present

R. Swift, Operations Director, Harbormaster
L. Bodick, Deputy Harbormaster
B. Bier, Alderman Liaison

Not Present

N. Bodick
D. Newman
N. Veccharelli, Alderman Liaison

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 18, 2010 were presented. Mr. Beard made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Post seconded. Motion carried unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments – Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and stay safe.

Chairman's Report – Mr. Montano, Mr. Swift, Ms. Bodick, Mr. Bodick and several of the commercial fishermen had an informal get-together with engineer Mr. Louis Torelli of DeCarlo & Doll at the town dock regarding plans for its repair. The road is collapsing and steel sheeting has rotted out. The process is just getting started regarding drawing up plans, applying for approvals, etc. The start date could be as early as next summer.

Director's Report – The bubbler system is almost installed for the winter.

Mr. Swift is encouraged by progress on the town dock to date. There may be some DEP issues to address. A letter from Mr. Larry Williams, commercial fisherman, endorsing the project was passed around.

On Monday, December 6, 2010, Mr. Swift attended the Board of Aldermen meeting. The pumpout grant money was formally accepted by the city. The contracts have been signed by the required city representatives and mailed back to the state. Mr. Swift will go through the paperwork that came with the contracts and start working on the next step.

Mr. Swift did some research online regarding the PILOT funds. During the fall of 2009, the funds were taken away and then re-instated fairly quickly after that. That year Milford received half of what had been received in previous years. The state statutes were re-set for cities to receive funds again. Mr. Swift received an email from Ms. Kim Rose, newly elected state representative. She reported that \$60,159.10 in PILOT funds is being sent to the city this week. He would like to speak to her because he has several questions as to how the figure was arrived at. Was the boat fund paid first, then the cities? Or should it have been the cities first, then the boat fund? Copies of the state statutes pertaining to the boating PILOT fund and a summary of the statutes were passed around for review.

Mr. Swift had word Monday, December 13, 2010, that the pond dredging grant has been denied.

Between now and January 1, 2010, Mr. Swift is going to put together a report regarding the need to dredge the marina including costs and get it to the Mayor's office. The mayor will include it in the Capital Improvement Plan for presentation to the Board of Aldermen. It may be possible to get the dredging costs covered through city bonding funds.

Mr. Winters asked if the commission was going to have input on the town dock. Mr. Montano stated that the informal meeting was for that purpose. The dock will be done as a refurbishment. The bulkhead will be redone on the south side to the corner. There will be an 18" high curb. Fencing will be along the outside with the dock open on the face for commercial boats to unload. The gazebo and benches will remain. The road will be redone, as well as the sidewalk on the north side of High Street. Some lighting will be added. Conduit will be placed underground for possible future electrical outlet inclusion. Discussion ensued on whether or not power outlets should be included at this time. The preliminary plans are in the commission office.

Harbormaster's Report –

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing – no report

Finance - Fund balance as of 11/30/10 was \$ 265,542.13 in savings and \$ 89,797.21 in checking for a total of \$355,339.34, with PILOT funds being expected shortly.

Mr. Swift met with the Mayor and the Finance director regarding the budget. The budget that Mr. Swift prepared was approved by both with no changes. It is basically the same budget as last year. Expenses can't be reduced further or services will suffer.

Harbor and Mooring – Mr. Beard asked how many moorings were available. In the harbor there are 47 float spaces open, with 5 awaiting paperwork and 42 being available. The Housatonic River mooring area is full with a waiting list of about 7. An ad has been placed in WindCheck for the winter months.

Housatonic – no report

Amendments – no report

Correspondence – The letter from Mr. Larry Williams was covered in the Director's report.

An email from Mr. Charles Beck, retired USCG, was passed around. In it there is a discussion on Army Corps of Engineer projects and how they are selected. Mr. Ed. O'Donnell, ACOE New England District, goes into detail on the process in his forwarded portion of the email. The deep water draft harbors get the majority of the funding from earmarks, etc. The original will be in the commission office should anyone care for a copy.

Old Business – The pond dredging update, High Street bulkhead and pumpout station were discussed in the Chairman's report and Directors report.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Swift if he'd had any response from Mr. Kammerer regarding the mooring. Mr. Miller noted that there had been a pile driver at that location recently. Mr. Swift stated that there had only been one piling at the location all summer and he was permitted for two. So it may be that the second one was placed. Mr. Swift will look into it.

New Business – The proposed schedule of meetings for 2011 were presented. Mr. Waterman made a motion to accept the 2011 schedule of meetings. Mr. Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Montano appointed Mr. Waterman, Mr. Post and Mr. Beard to be on the nominating committee. They accepted.

Liaisons

Stratford - no report

Aldermen – Mr. Bier questioned the 1/3rd of the Milford floating dock spaces that were open at this time. Is that usual? Mr. Swift responded that reminders were mailed to those that didn't respond by the deadline time and anyone who wanted one had responded immediately. Mr. Brennan said that for the past few years it has been like this. Before that the moorings were full with a waiting list. Milford Yacht Club is down in their membership also and where they once had a considerable waiting list, it has been dwindling. Mr. Beard noted that perhaps it was time to bring up the old issue of alternative funding for Yacht Clubs and marinas to draw from, if need be, a user fee of some type. It is an unpopular subject but needs to be addressed. He challenged the commission and staff to come up with a plan for the future. Mr. Brennan said that in previous discussions the following has come up: who is going to manage the fund; will it be a separate trust with a separate board who may have conflicts with the harbor commission on spending; if it is managed by the city an ordinance will be needed, a separate fund set up and who will get the say on spending that; the stakeholders of Milford Harbor will need to be identified and how to set the fee addressed. Mr. Montano suggested that the matter be tabled until the nominating committee comes up with next year's officers and committees. At that point, the Harbor and Mooring committee can address the issue. Mr. Swift requested that before there is talk of a user fee perhaps the commission should address raising the transient rates at the marina as the visiting boaters are our #1 users. He would like the rates to be raised from \$2.50/foot to \$3.00/foot Friday and Saturday and be \$2.50/foot Sunday through Thursday. The question came up as to whether it would affect the number of customers visiting. Discussion ensued. Mr. Winters made a motion with Mr. Waterman seconding to raise the daily overnight transient rates in season from \$2.50/foot to \$3.00/foot on Friday and Saturday. The fee for Sunday through Thursday will be \$2.50/foot. Motion carried unanimously.

P & Z - no report

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Tougas
Recording Secretary