

Milford Harbor Management Commission
March 18, 2021

Board Members, Liaisons and Staff Present:

Robert Brennan, Chairman
Ray Oliver, Vice Chairman
Nancy Bennett, Secretary
James Beard
Joseph Gilbert
Raymond Kirmaier
Dora Kubek
John Nevin
Bruce Kuryla, Harbormaster
Lee Henschman, Deputy Harbormaster
James Donegan, Operations Director

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent:

Robert Pacelli
Gregory Harla, Board of Aldermen
Raymond Vitali, Board of Aldermen

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

Consideration of the minutes of the regular Meeting of February 18, 2021

A motion was made by J. Nevin and seconded by D. Kubek to approve the minutes as presented.
Passed unanimously.

Chairman's report

Chairman Brennan reported that he has not yet heard when we will return to in-person meetings. He informed us that he will need a motion later in the meeting to go into executive session.

Directors Report:

Bob turned to Jim Donegan to fill everyone in on the status of the solar panels. Jim reported that he met with a City electrician who does remember the install and the moving of portions of the system after the flood. He found the original installation paperwork and is following up with the installer. Jim filled us in on the project that is underway at the south end of the launch ramp where the dinghy racks were located. The gazebo and a lot of unsightly debris has been removed and pavers are being put down. The cleanup will result in ample level ground to accommodate even more dinghy racks which we are in need of. The City is putting conduit in the ground to accommodate underground utilities and this may in the future be used to run water and electricity to the long dock which currently is without utilities. This will allow for rental of more slips during peak overflow events. All of the work is slated to be completed by May 1.

Jim Beard questioned the need for more parking if we are adding more dinghy racks. Parking has constantly been an issue in this area. There was discussion that some parking may become available when the Constitution Way project is completed as the plans indicate that the roadway that currently running through the library parking area and along the harbor is to be rerouted somewhere east of the basketball courts. Jim will bring this up with the Mayor.

Wood for additional racks will be \$1,800. and as an Eagle Scout project there appears to be the labor to build the racks. Each new rack would accommodate 12 more dinghies. There is also a plan to replace the information kiosk that is there with one similar to other used around the City. The cost for this will be \$1,000.

Julie Nash, Director of Community Development met with Jim Donegan and John, the operator of the Tiki Boat who we spoke with last season. He is thinking of bringing a different Tiki boat to Milford this season and so they were revisiting our discussions about slip space rental from last year. The boat he was going to bring last year burned in a fire in Stamford so his new boat is more of a pontoon style and is trailerable so he may not even want or need a permanent dock space or he may get an additional boat. We will wait to hear back from Julie and John as to the plans. Jim Donegan has contacted the City Attorney regarding the commercial contract and insurance requirements needed should the Tiki Boat come to Milford.

Joe Gilbert questioned whether or not the boat would be equipped with a MSD (Marine Sanitation Device) but Jim thought it would not as the trips would be just a short hour long harbor cruise.

Jim Donegan provided us with electrical bills for the past three years related to the meter that is tied to the three freezers for the commercial fishermen. It is obvious that we need to increase the current yearly charge of \$750. to \$1200. In order to cover our expenses. Nancy Bennett made a motion and John Nevin seconded the motion to make this increase when the new commercial contracts go out on April 1. There was also some discussion about charging for upland storage. To this juncture, the commercial fishermen have been allowed to keep some gear in a designated area. No action taken on this item.

Harbormaster Report:

Bruce Kuryla reported that all the dinghy racks are sold out. There are 3 moorings available although he is waiting for payment from a few stragglers.

We have not been notified of a date for the Charles Island Music Festival.

Deputy Harbormaster Report:

Lee Henschman reported that all mooring holders on the Housatonic with the exception of 4 have paid and that he has a healthy waitlist so expects to be sold out.

He presented us with a summary of the complaint about wakes from boats damaging property at Caswell Cove. This was initially brought to our attention by Scott Allen of Caswell Cove last year. Bruce, Lee and Jim meet with the DEEP with the printout which contains a graphic showing the 3/10 of a mile proposed no wake zone and the proposed signage to be mounted on the North and South ends of Pope's Island. This no wake zone is not only to protect Caswell Cove from damaging wakes but also to alert boaters to the extreme eastward turn needed to avoid a shoal. Last year a boat hit the shoal and people needed to be taken to the hospital. DEEP agreed that the signage and no wake area could be established quite easily and quickly with approval of both Milford and Stratford Mayors and Harbor Commissions. Bruce Kuryla made a motion and John Nevin seconded the motion indicating our approval of the proposed no wake zone and related signage. It was passed unanimously. Lee will amend the paperwork to reflect discussion and provide it to be signed by Harbormaster, Deputy Harbormaster and Harbor Commission.

Lee has not had any response from Dave Carey about the issues with oyster boats tangling and damaging moorings as they continue to navigate through the mooring field despite a directive from the Aquaculture Division not to do so. Lee has photos of three boats who caused the damage and will contact the owners of the vessels but the repairs to the Helix moorings are very expensive and if

someone didn't happen to see it occur, there would be no recourse and this would leave the private owners of these moorings out of pocket for potentially thousands of dollars of repairs. Tom Fahy, Deputy Harbormaster of Stratford will contact Dave Carey at Aquaculture and request assistance. This may result in establishing a no operating zone where the moorings are as the current guidelines are being ignored.

Permit Review:

No report

Lisman Landing:

No report

Finance:

Jim Donegan reported on the balances in the accounts

Checking: \$76,525.85

Savings: \$271,067.41

Nominating:

No report

Harbor and Mooring:

No report

Housatonic:

No report

Amendments:

No report

Coorespondence:

None

Channel and Dredging:

No update

Port Authority and SHIPS grant:

No update

Shellfishing:

Ray Oliver reported that UCONN is still working on their reports.

Submarine:

An Eagle Scout project resulted in an IRC code being put on the submarine which directs visitors to history of the Submarine and its maker.

Memorial Stones:

We are on the list for the stone mason to begin work. Over the winter, the original engraver backed out of the job so Jim has contacted both Milford Monument and Stratford Monument for quotes.

We received a \$1,000. donation from Gary Montano so that brings our donations to \$2,000. to accomplish this work. The total cost will be about \$4,000. so we need to work on more donations.

Jim Beard made a motion that was seconded by John Nevin to have an executive session.

Jim Beard made a motion that was seconded by Ray Oliver to go into the executive session.

Ray Oliver made a motion which was seconded by Jim Beard to leave executive session.

Jim Beard made a motion which was seconded by John Nevin to accept the following from executive session:

Scoopy Doo's lease: To grant the tenant's request to amend the initial term of the lease from 5 to 2 years. There was no change to the rates, only the time period of the initial term. The Mayor is in favor of this.

Gulf Beach Concession Lease: To award the lease to the high bidder which was Goodie's. The Mayor is also in favor of this lease.

Jim Donegan reported that just before tonight's meeting he checked and our bookings through DockWa hit 400 nights.

John Nevin made a motion which was seconded by Jim Beard to adjourn our meeting at 8:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bennett
Secretary