

Milford Harbor Management Commission Meeting
January 19, 2012

Commission Members Present:

J. Beard
N. Bennett
R Miller
D. Newman
R. Oliver
R. Post
A. Waterman

Also Present:

R Swift, Operations Director, Harbormaster
L. Bodick, Deputy Harbormaster

Not Present:

R. Brennan
C. Mario

R. Nunno, Alderman Liaison
B. Bier, Alderman Liaison

Commissioner R. Oliver and R. Miller were made voting Commissioners to replace absent Commissioners R. Brennan and C. Mario.

Consideration of minutes: The minutes of the regular meeting of December 15, 2011 were approved unanimously as presented.

Public Comments: None

Chairman's report: Chairman Post welcomed our new Commissioner Ray Oliver and the appointment of D. Newman as a Commissioner (having previously been an alternate).

Chairman Post passed out copies of the most current Harbor Management plan. Mr. Oliver questioned why planners were sited as part of this plan having had no oversight over the plan. Mr. Beard reported that historically the harbor is "mixed bag". We are merely advisors to the planning committees about the below water use. He thought perhaps the interests were comingled? There being no conclusion, it remained a curiosity.

Appointment of Standing Committees:

Amendments- J.Beard, R. Oliver
Finance- A. Waterman, N.Bennett, J. Beard
Harbor & Mooring- D. Newman, R.Brennan
Housatonic-R. Miller, C. Mario
Lisman Landing- A. Waterman, N.Bennett

Directors Report: R. Swift will see to it that retired Chairman Montano's name is put on the plaque at the flagpole.

Windcheck boat show is scheduled to take place May 19 – 20th at Milford Lisman Landing. The event coincides with Safe Boating Week and it was thought that it would

be a good idea to have a booth for the local Coast Guard Flotilla and the Power Squadron. R. Swift will speak to the boat show promoter.

Directors' report:

No update on property or operation. No correspondence, one permit for was received for the rehab of a patio down on Shorefront off of Broadway to repair damage from Hurricane Irene.

Moorings – Requests are coming in, one received today 50 unspoken for at this time, which is standard for this time of the season and the economy.

Landing: No report

Finance: Account balances

Savings	\$266,352.00
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Checking	\$82,261.47
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Total	\$348,613.47
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All bills are paid.

Harbor and Mooring: Transfer of \$16,000 was approved for money to buy dock hardware for upgrades across the harbor on the dock south of the boat ramp. Ray expects it will be slightly less. This is for flotation tubs, galvanized hardware and decking for approximately 200 feet of dock that is probably over 30 years old. The current thought is to use pressure treated lumber for decking. A. Waterman made motion and R Miller seconded to authorize R. Swift to proceed with purchase and repair.

Housatonic: No report

Amendments: No report

Old Business;

Ponds: Bob sat down with Mayor and he was promised an update.

Marina dredging update: At this point we are just keeping in communication with Roberge Associates. The process will get going again in spring with the dredging happening probably next Nov – Dec. Our permit is good for 3 years.

City Dock: The work is progressing. N. Bennett and L. Bodick provided some detail about issues that have been confronted that are slowing down the process. They continue to work closely with the contractor regarding the project.

New business:

Pilot Funds – we have lost the Pilot Fund financing which results in a \$74,000. Shortfall of income to our budget (25% of our income). R. Post passed out a summary of the

public act eliminating the funding. The end result is that all of the money collected from the registrations of boats is going directly to the General Fund of the State and is no longer turned over to the municipality. We simply cannot make up this shortfall by raising fees. Even if we were to raise our fees by 30% it would not cover the loss and most likely we would lose a large number of customers with this sort of rate increase. R. Swift made a 5 point proposal on how we can compensate for this loss in funding. It called for the elimination of the position of office manager, the freezing of the Director's wages for 5 years, a small increase to the seasonal employee account, the recommendation that we seek out a new Harbormaster who would be dedicated to the Federal Channel and mooring work (allowing the Director additional time to deal with increased administrative tasks), and changing of the renewal dates for the moorings from November to February thereby shifting the workload to a quieter time. This was a very difficult decision especially as our office manager has been a devoted full-time employee for over 10 years. There was discussion of some sort of lateral move within the city to another job and that opportunity certainly exists should Joan seek this path. It was clear that many of the Commissioners struggled with this decision because of her dedication, performance and years of service, but in the end all agreed that this drastic step had to be made to make up for the lost revenue. Ray assured the commission that he had been in contact with City Personnel department and that her pension and health benefits were secure. A motion was made by A. Waterman and seconded by R Miller to accept the entire proposal to begin to make up for the loss of pilot funding. The position of office manager will be eliminated effective 1/20/2012. R. Swift will convey this decision to Joan her tomorrow morning, R. Miller will be in attendance to represent the Commission. R. Swift is aware that this will increase his duties and responsibilities but feels strongly that a good relationship with the City finance director, purchasing agent, personnel director and Mayor will go a long way in keeping the operation running smoothly.

It was suggested that a letter should be sent from the Commission to Joan with a copy of the city citing that the position was eliminated and this action was strictly budgetary and not indicative of poor performance. N. Bennett will write a letter on behalf of the Commission and send to Chairman Post for approval and signature.

Liasons:

Stratford: None

Planning and Zoning - None

Aldermen - None

All were asked to consider individuals for nomination as a new Harbormaster.

There being no further business, our meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bennett
Secretary, MHMC