

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

The Milford Harbor Management Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2009 in the conference room at Milford Landing. Vice-Chairman Beard called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

Commission Members Present

J. Beard
N. Bodick
R. Brennan
R. Miller
D. Newman
A. Waterman
R. Winters

Also Present

L. Bodick, Deputy Harbormaster
B. Bier, Alderman Liaison (arrived late)

Not Present

G. Montano
R. Post
R. Swift, Operations Director, Harbormaster
N. Veccharelli, Alderman Liaison

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 15, 2009 were presented. Ms. Bodick made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Waterman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – None

Chairman's Report – None

Director's Report – None

Harbormaster's Report – None

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing – None

Finance - Fund balance as of 01/31/09 was \$288,349.01 in savings and \$115,761.32 in checking for a total of \$404,110.33. All bills are paid. It was questioned why the total was down. Ms. Tougas stated that this is because a check was given to Rich Wincapaw for the purchase of the sea-flex equipment.

Harbor and Mooring – Mr. Beard inquired about how many moorings were unfilled. Ms. Tougas stated 32 are untaken at this time. This is down from the 37 that were unfilled in January. The Housatonic moorings have all been filled.

Housatonic – Mr. Beard remarked that he has been following the stimulus package and how it will affect the Moses Wheeler bridge repair. He went over the history of the state's request regarding Milford's boat launch ramp since they expect to close the state ramp under the bridge while it is being repaired/rebuilt. The state had requested free ramp permits be handed out upon request. The commission voted this down at the time of the request. Mr. Beard requested that Mr. Newman monitor the situation there.

Amendments – None

Correspondence – None

Old Business – No meeting has been held regarding the Wepawaug Ponds dredging. Mr. Beard attended the Board of Finance meeting on February 11, 2009. He sat next to Mary Rose Palumbo of Inland/Wetlands. They had a conversation regarding reactivating the issue of pond dredging. Both agreed that it probably would be awhile before this was undertaken.

Ms. Tougas reported that Mr. Rich Wincapaw has been given a check for \$84,909 in order to purchase the sea-flex equipment as approved by the Harbor Commission at the January 2009 meeting. He needed to order it at this time since it will take some time to arrive from overseas.

Mr. Beard requested the Mr. Waterman fill the commission in on the Housatonic dock application for #70 and #64 Riverside Drive since Mr. Rene Leduc, property owner, was not in attendance. Mr. Waterman went over the discussion of last month regarding Valley Yacht Club and whether they'd been notified of the project since the club is a neighbor. The commission had agreed to hold off on filling out the paperwork until this had been undertaken. Mr. Swift and Mr. Waterman met with Jim Manzolli, Commodore of the Valley Yacht Club, to go over the application. It was presented to the club at their February 12, 2009 general meeting. The club approved with the caveat that debris coming downriver be dealt with as necessary by the property owner. The club wrote a letter to that effect (copy attached) and a copy of the letter will be included and noted in the Harbor Commission approval of the project. Ms. Bodick noted that the commission agreed last month that the project seemed okay and that this discussion was merely a formality. Mr. Waterman made a motion to accept Mr. Leduc's plan as set forth to the commission, that it is consistent with the Harbor Management Plan and to include the letter from Valley Yacht Club as part of Attachment E to the DEP. Ms. Bodick seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business – Mr. Brennan made a motion to place the Borough of Woodmont seawall repair on tonight's agenda. Mr. Waterman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Borough of Woodmont seawall repair application and the Hatfield Dock application were passed around for the commission members review.

While reviewing, Mr. Bier asked how many private marinas were in the harbor. Ms. Bodick replied that there were four counting Milford Yacht Club, the others being Milford Boat Works, Port Milford and Spencer's Marina. Mr. Beard noted that the marinas are a big chunk of asset to the city in property taxes, PILOT boating funds, etc. because of all the vessels docked here. Ms. Tougas reported that the \$10,000 decrease in PILOT funds in the Board of Finance budget book was in error. The state sets that amount. In the next budget book printing it will be corrected back to the \$74,336 amount and the \$10,000 would be taken out of another account since the commissions' revenues and expenses must match. Mr. Beard explained to Mr. Bier that former Mayor Lisman helped get the PILOT funds placed into the Harbor account over other City of Milford departments' objections. The PILOT funds are allocated to cities according to the home address on the vessel registration.

Mr. Beard inquired as to any happenings in the harbor as regards to the marinas. Mr. Bodick replied that Port Milford seems to be stable and Spencer's Marina is questionable. Discussion ensued regarding the possible loss of Spencer's Marina to a private developer. Ms. Bodick pointed out that Spencer's now has more riparian rights than land acreage. The bulkheading is bad. The best Milford can hope for is perhaps a commercial consortium of shellfisherman purchasing it. There was a short discussion regarding the DiPietro and Nesteriak properties. Nesteriak's pilings are leaning over. Mr. Beard requested that Mr. Bodick and Ms. Bodick keep in mind the economy and its effect on the harbor. He asked them to keep the commission apprised of any changes within the harbor.

Ms. Bodick wanted to know if the Borough of Woodmont was just repairing the existing seawall. Yes, the seawall is just being repaired. The existing seawall had been grandfathered in and was not permitted originally. Ms. Bodick made a motion to accept the Borough of Woodmont's seawall repair application as presented. Mr. Waterman seconded. Motion passed unanimously with Mr. Beard abstaining for business reasons.

Mr. Waterman didn't see the length of the existing dock vs. the length of the new dock on Mr. Hatfield's application. The overlay is missing as well as the dimensions. Mr. Waterman would like that clarified before any approval is given. Mr. Brennan questioned the concrete footing. Discussion ensued on the Hatfield dock application drawings and pictures. Mr. Beard suggested that there were enough questions within the commission to warrant referring it to the Housatonic committee for review. Mr. Waterman stated that he would take the application with him since he had to meet with Mr. John Wicko, engineer/consultant, on another matter. Mr. Waterman made a motion to take the Hatfield dock application and get further clarification before making any decisions. Mr. Newman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Waterman will report back at the next commission meeting.

Liaisons

Stratford - no report

Aldermen – Mr. Bier had nothing to report but he did question if the commission anticipated less boats in the harbor for the 2009 season. Ms. Bodick stated that Milford Boat Works' occupancy is down. They were comfortably full in past years. This year occupancy is 20% off. Mr. Beard stated that the floating docks owned by the commission historically have a waiting list but 32 are still open at this time, about 25% of the dockage. Mr. Beard also wanted to clarify several items from the January Board of Alderman meeting so that Mr. Bier might have a better understanding of the harbor commissions thoughts to take back to the full board. Mr. Beard recounted the history of the launch ramp, parking space discrepancies, tennis court acreage that was supposed to be harbor parking but was never converted, the launch ramp sticker process and revenues. Mr. Beard thanked Mr. Bier for coming tonight.

P & Z - no report

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Tougas
Recording Secretary