

Milford Harbor Management Commission

March 20, 2014

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Present:

James Beard
Nancy Bennett
Robert Brennan
John Nevin
David Newman
Robert Pacelli
Robert Post, Chairman
Alan Waterman
Ray Swift, Operations Director
Bruce Kurlya, Harbormaster
Bryan Anderson Board of Alderman

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent:

Ray Oliver
Brian Bier, Board of Alderman
Nick Veccharelli Board of Alderman

Robert Post, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Consideration of Minutes of February 20, 2014

A. Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2014 seconded by J. Beard. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments: *None*

Chairman's Report– Robert Post

- Next meeting is April 17, 2014.
- Woodmont is restoring its beaches.
- Canoe fatality

Director's Report – Ray Swift

- Pile driving in April
- The Board of Alderman budget meeting has been rescheduled to April 10, 2014.
- Patio – Richard Tomasco, Public Works Director came over to look at the patio and came up with some ideas for the repair of the patio involving rebar and concrete. R. Swift proposed putting the legs on solid footing and installing 12 inch high trek decking over the area with fencing, which would eliminate the settling of the slate and put the legs on a solid footing.
- Reservations are coming in and looks to be another good season.

Harbormaster's Report-B. Kurlya

- There are 39 unpaid slips out of 128 and there are 11 on the waiting list for smaller boats.
- Dredging update- nothing in writing, just that Connecticut DOT will fund 80% of the project and we pay 20% which includes the cost of the permits. It will be for the channel only.

Permits-*none*

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing– none

Finance

Savings: \$ 267,507.24
Checking: \$ 102,550.46
Total \$370,057.70

Harbor & Mooring- none

Housatonic, Amendments- none

Correspondence:*none*

Old Business:

Roy Poon, representing applicant Christopher Viens, Charles Island Aquaculture regarding previous application for Charles Island Oyster Seaweed, along with Alissa Dragon and David Carey of Connecticut Aquaculture. Connecticut Aquaculture representatives explained that as a neighbor they wanted the commission to know that it supports this application, explaining that this is the ideal location and will not interfere with boating as this area will be well marked with buoys and will support three non-invasive species of crops including a summer crop which is experimental at this time. They went on to explain the permit can be revoked by DEEP and the Army Core if this seaweed farm created a danger situation for boaters. The Harbor commission finds this proposal inconsistent with the Harbor Management Plan one of the main goals of the plan is to see that waters of the City of Milford remain fully navigable at all times, to avoid situations that create congestion, minimize safety hazards and to protect public safety created by conflicting use. The proposal location is right on a major path to the entrance to Milford Harbor from Port Jeff as well as Stratford/Housatonic River and all points west. With the numbers of buoys, floats and long lines, the Commission finds this proposal to be hazard to navigation and poses safety issues for all boaters who transient the area. They also noted that the applicant only mentioned a winter crop when he presented his application and now they are proposing a summer crop. Other concerns were damage from storms and use of Milford Landing, which cannot support the housing of a seaweed harvest operation. Connecticut Aquaculture explained that they will proceed forward without the Milford Harbor Commission approval.

New Business

Motion to Adjourn

D. Newman made a motion to adjourn seconded by A. Waterman. The meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Beverly A. Hayes
Recorder