

MILFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
May 19, 2011

The Milford Harbor Management Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2011 in the conference room at Milford Landing. Vice-Chairman Beard called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present

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

Also Present

R. Swift, Operations Director, Harbormaster

Not Present

G. Montano
L. Bodick, Deputy Harbormaster
B. Bier, Alderman Liaison
N. Veccharelli, Alderman Liaison

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of March 17, 2011 were presented. No minutes were taken on April 21, 2011 because there was no quorum. Mr. Brennan made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Post seconded. Motion carried unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments – None

Chairman's Report – None

Director's Report – The marina is ready for the season. This coming weekend will be the first one the marina is open with dockhands working. 6 boats are scheduled to come in on Saturday. Some boats previously scheduled had to cancel due to boats not being ready so not sure how many will actually come.

The pumpout has been ordered. It is a KECO system. Delivery will be mid June and installation will be done in house. It will be a huge improvement and a lot simpler to use and maintain.

Flowers have been planted and the baskets will be picked up next week.

The Duck Race went well. The latest word on the Cooke Cancer Walk is that it will be rescheduled for the fall sometime.

Harbormaster's Report – There are about 12 vacancies on the harbor floats if everyone gets their paperwork in. The Housatonic River moorings are full. Discussion on whether other marinas are full and amount of boat traffic so far. It's been a slow start to the season because it hasn't really warmed up yet.

Discussion held on the amount of debris coming down both Milford Harbor and Housatonic River and what to do with any particularly large pieces.

Mr. Waterman left early due to a prior engagement.

An application for repair of the Follini bulkhead was passed around for review. The approval for the High Street Town Dock was passed around. It has been put out for bid. Bids close May 31st. It was questioned whether they will wait until after the Lobster Bake, July 23rd, to start. Ms. Bennett had heard July 1st was the construction start date. The application for Coulson replacing an existing dock on Derby Avenue, the marsh side of Milford Point Road, was also passed around for review. Discussion was held on the three applications. Ms. Bennett has concerns about the height of the fencing on the north side of the new town dock bordering Milford Boat Works. The bulkhead plans were reviewed. It is noted that these applications were reviewed and were accepted without any necessary action on the part of the harbor commission.

Mr. Geoff Steadman called Mr. Swift on Wednesday. Mr. Steadman met with the DEP in Hartford. It has been proposed that if there is any dredging done in the Housatonic a potential dredge dispersal site would be the beaches east of Milford Point. The State Aquaculture Department does not have a problem with the proposition. If the Currituck were used for this, it would potentially be available for maintenance dredging of the mouth of Milford Harbor.

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing – no report

Finance - Fund balance as of 04/30/11 was \$ 265,871.90 in savings and \$107,605.63 in checking for a total of \$373,477.53. All bills are paid

Harbor and Mooring – The underwater inspections for the floating docks are still to be done.

Housatonic – Covered above.

Amendments – no report

Correspondence – A letter was received from a harbor user regarding the speed buoy placement at the entrance to the harbor. Recommendation was made to move them to a different location. Discussion was held on where they would be most effective. The harbor commission will take the recommendation into consideration when placing them for 2011.

An email invitation from CMTA for a Plum Island tour on June 24 was extended to the harbor commission. Ms. Bennett is attending as a Milford Boat Works member of CMTA. There are only two (2) tickets available for each member business.

Old Business – There is no update on the pond dredging. The pumpout station was covered in the Director's report. The High Street Town Dock bulkhead application was covered in the Harbormaster's Report. There is no update on the marina dredging.

New Business – Mr. Swift said that the transient fees have been raised to \$3.00/ft on Fridays and Saturdays and are \$2.50/ft on Sundays through Thursdays for the 2011 season. The harbormaster has been authorized by the State to raise mooring fees. The Housatonic mooring fees should probably be raised in the fall at renewal time. The commission is going to discuss raising the commercial slip fees. Once all fees are set, that would be a good time to amend the ordinances to reflect them instead of doing each as they arise.

Mr. Swift suggested that the commercial vessel slip rates be raised by \$500. They are \$3,000 per year now, to go to \$3,500 per year. Electricity is an extra \$500 above that. No change to the electrical fee is proposed at this time. Metered outlets for the coolers are coming shortly. Mr. Beard is concerned about losing money on electrical usage by the commercial vessels. Discussion took place regarding metering each vessel, metering the freezers and what electrical costs are overall per year at present. Mr. Swift said that perhaps it would be better to come up with a set fee for the coolers rather than metering them. It could possibly be calculated using output figures from the cooler labeling. There is no way to separate out electrical usage on each slip itself since those electrical posts are tied into the overall marina electrical system.

Ms. Bennett made a motion to approve the commercial slip rental fee increase from \$3,000 to \$3,500 effective May 1, 2011. Mr. Newman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Liaisons

Stratford - no report

Aldermen – no report

P & Z - no report

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Tougas
Recording Secretary