

MILFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
May 21, 2009

The Milford Harbor Management Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2009 in the conference room at Milford Landing. Chairman Montano called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Commission Members Present

J. Beard
N. Bodick
R. Brennan
R. Miller
G. Montano
D. Newman
R. Post
A. Waterman

Also Present

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

Not Present

R. Winters
B. Bier, Alderman Liaison
N. Veccharelli, Alderman Liaison

Consideration of Minutes

The minutes of the regular meeting of April 16, 2009 were presented. Mr. Miller made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Waterman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – None

Chairman's Report – Mr. Montano thanked the commissioners for their support regarding his staying on as Chairman of the Harbor Commission. Mayor Richetelli spoke to Mr. Montano and requested that Mr. Montano remain on the commission until his term expires. At that time, if the commission wishes Mr. Montano to remain for another term, Mr. Montano would be pleased to do so.

Director's Report – Mr. Swift reported that in an effort to cut back expenses, the seasonal help just started this past weekend.

The Catholic Schools Duck Race went well as did the Bob Cooke Cancer Walk.

Bob Auger has started as launch ramp attendant on the weekends.

The hanging baskets, donated by the Oyster Festival Committee, went on the pedestrian bridge today.

A Boy Scouts Sea Scout chapter is being started out of St. Mary's Church by Bob Scukas. Father Cronin donated a 26 foot sailing vessel. The troop has been assigned a mooring space directly across from Harborview Road. The troop will have dinghy access from one of the small lots in that area. Their meetings will be held at St. Mary's. An inquiry for a mooring was made by another Sea Scout troop that is already established out of Bristol, CT. They presently have space in Black Rock Harbor. Mr. Newman questioned Ms. Bodick about the former Sea Scout troop running out of Milford Boat Works. Ms. Bodick replied that the former group had some difficulties and eventually disbanded because of them. This seems to be a much younger group and she hopes that it will run smoother. Mr. Beard remarked that Bob Scukas along with Bob Macklin recently received "Good Scout Awards" from the Connecticut Yankee Council for their time and dedication to scouting. Mr. Beard encouraged the commission to foster the Sea Scout Program. Mr. Swift reported that Bob Scukas is actively recruiting adult sailing volunteers to help out with the troop.

On May 28, 2009, there will be a meeting of the Connecticut Harbor Management Association from 4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. at the Sound School in New Haven. One of the agenda items states they are looking for suggestions on speakers for the annual meeting. Mr. Swift will try to make this

meeting next week.

The DEP sent an email regarding hosting a clean and safe boating day. Mr. Swift will see what is involved and try to arrange to have one at Milford Landing.

Three permits, tentatively approved by the DEP, were passed around for the commission to look at. One for John Hamblin on Harborview and Edgewater Place, one for the Borough of Woodmont and the third for the Connecticut Post East Town Road Bridge.

Mr. Swift sent Mr. Gagliardi some materials on how to go about replacing/adding pilings. The DEP has two booklets regarding permits and waterfront construction. Mr. Gagliardi is the first purchaser of a slip at the dockominium, slip #1, at Oyster Landing. The slip was originally for a large vessel but in recent years a smaller vessel was there. Mr. Gagliardi wants to go back to the original boat length and the condo association has requested that extra pilings be placed at his slip because of this. Mr. Gagliardi is meeting with the condo board tonight and Mr. Swift is waiting to hear from him as to what the condo board decided. Mr. Waterman pointed out that the extra pilings might be needed because # 1 is the end slip and if there were a storm, he'd need more pilings to tie a boat to. Some discussion ensued regarding boat size in that area and where the channel is. If the boat went in bow first, an extra 10 feet would probably be gained.

Harbormaster's Report – The mooring field retrofit is coming along. Rich Wincapaw is working on it every day with the tides. The new Sea-flex is 3 – 4 times the strength of the old ones. The nylon bushing at the attach point are about 4 times as thick as the old ones. When this project is complete, there will be no galvanized parts underwater. On the older Sea-flex, a 9-strand rope with stainless clamps is being used for the limiters. Mr. Beard suggested that photos might be taken and shown to the Board of Alderman in a follow up on where and why the commission is spending the money to do this.

There are 16 unassigned moorings in the harbor with paperwork out on 6 of those, which would leave 10 open float spaces. The empty float spaces are in all sizes. The Housatonic has 2 empty spaces at this time with paperwork out for those.

Mr. Swift reported that Lor Cubbison is presently on his mooring. The tackle was hauled, inspected and replaced. He and the boat are safe and out of the channel and off the edge of the mooring area. Ross Hatfield has tried to get liability insurance for him but cannot. The boat needs to be hauled to get insurance but it can't get hauled without insurance so he is in a catch-22. Mr. Hatfield found some companies willing to give him insurance if photos of the boat were submitted but that route isn't feasible. Mr. Swift spoke to the City of Milford Risk Manager and she said that there is room to wave the insurance requirements for humanitarian reasons since it is Mr. Cubbison's home on and off. The Coast Guard didn't tow his boat over the winter for basically this reason. The office hasn't accepted paperwork from him since it wouldn't be complete without the insurance. Mr. Swift suggested that we might be better off leaving him on his mooring and not accepting an application and fee. Mr. Cubbison would be in violation of mooring permits but Mr. Swift could choose not to enforce it at this time. Mr. Newman suggested that maybe the city attorney could draw up a hold harmless agreement for him to sign. Mr. Brennan stated that the city would be on the hook anyway because the city would be considered to have deep pockets. He suggested Mr. Swift check with the city attorney on this and see how they want to handle it. By not enforcing the insurance issue, someone could come back and sue Ray, the city and the state. Especially if another boat gets damaged or a person is hurt, the city would be sued for a large amount. The question would arise as to why someone is without insurance but can retain a mooring when everyone else has to comply. Mr. Beard seemed to think that it would leave the commission open to tremendous exposure especially with the enterprise fund. Mr. Swift stated that he was buying time for Mr. Cubbison to comply with the insurance issue by getting the mooring tackle usable. Mike Dunn, Housatonic Boat Club mooring liaison, volunteered his time and did what he could to help, as did Ross Hatfield. Discussion ensued about Mr. Cubbison not being a customer but basically a squatter in the Milford mooring field in the Housatonic River and whether or not it lessened the commissions' exposure. Mr. Brennan says it is still a problem since the commission is aware of it.

Mr. Beard made a motion that the Operations Director/Milford Harbormaster, Mr. Swift, lay out the facts to the City of Milford City Attorney and find out what should be done about Mr. Cubbison and his

mooring. Mr. Waterman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing – None

Finance - Fund balance as of 04/30/09 was \$288,969.60 in savings. The Finance Department hadn't received the checking statement as of this afternoon. All bills are paid. Mr. Beard asked what is usually in the checking account, about \$100,000, and what bills are due. Only normal operations expenditures and ½ the helix retrofit would be coming due shortly. The other half of the retrofit was paid out in January.

Harbor and Mooring – The city is pushing the sand back at Gulf Beach.

Mr. Bodick stated that the groin is building up and is almost out to the channel. It may be coming out of Gulf Pond or around the jetty. Does it require a warning in that area? Mr. Beard suggested keeping an eye on it. Mr. Swift said that if boats keep to the channel there shouldn't be a problem at this time.

Housatonic –

Amendments – Mr. Beard received responses from different state and federal agencies regarding the revised Harbor Management Plan. He apologized for not addressing the responses as of yet. Some of the agencies responses were comments and need no action. Others perhaps are best left alone. Ms. Bodick pointed out that the federal channel ends just short of the launch ramp and where are federal funds to pay for dredging of the federal channel? Discussion took place about the responses. Any action to be taken was left with Mr. Beard.

Correspondence –

Old Business – No meeting has been held regarding the Wepawaug Ponds dredging.

The float system update was given in the Harbormaster's Report.

New Business – None

Liaisons

Stratford - no report

Aldermen - no report

P & Z - no report

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Tougas
Recording Secretary