

Milford Harbor Management Commission

October 17, 2013

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Present:

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

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent:

Ray Oliver
Larry Bodick, Deputy Harbormaster
Brian Bier, Board of Alderman

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

Consideration of Minutes of September 19, 2013

A. Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2013 seconded by R. Brennan. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

Steve Johnson, 76 Marshall Street, Open Space & Natural Resource Agent for the City of Milford. He wanted a chance to discuss the Wepawaug River Pond dredging and other water quality issues that are impacting the harbor. He stated that he read portions of the report on dredging and feasibility and is interested in creating an alliance with Wepawaug River Watershed Alliance (WRWA) through a grant received for outreach effort to help guide people on alternative choices which will improve the condition of the river and ultimately impact the harbor. He added that 14 DEEP signs, regarding the feeding of the waterfowl, have been installed along select locations. There is also a brochure, which is educational in nature. He welcomed the chance to compare ideas and ways to collaborate on these issues. He is also reaching out the Milford Health Department and feels education and public outreach is best solution to some of the problems.

Chairman's Report – Robert Post

- John Nevin was welcomed to the Board.
- Bob Nunno, Board of Alderman Liaison is not running for office, this is his last meeting for which he thanked him for his support.
- Next meeting is November 21, 2013.
- Borough of Woodmont applied for a permit to add 40,000 yards of sand along Beach Avenue.
- Boat Ramp Fee Increase – He will find out if this will be on the November Board of Alderman Agenda.
- Charles Island Oyster Farm – received an approved permit from the Army Corp dated October 11, 2013. It was noted the concerns about the large number of buoys seems to have been

addressed, but the impediment to navigation and that at low tide, the cages resting on the bottom will reduce the navigable water depth from 4 feet to 2 ½ for a 3.6 acre area, these issues were not. N. Bennett added that this is a serious concern to navigation and public safety in a heavily used area for boating. B. Post added that a DEEP permit has not been received by the Commission.

- Seaweed Farm – off Charles Island this is being proposed and would be harvested in January and a second crop in the summer. R. Brennan stated that this will completely stop boat traffic and N. Bennett added that allowing this would open the door to more similar type projects impacting the boat traffic.

Director's Report – Ray Swift

- Season ending – no more customers, had a group over the weekend using the facilities, they had a barbeque and ending the night with pumpkins on the piers and lit them all. Monday morning started breaking down the marina for the dredging. Getting the grounds ready for winter and he will have help till Thanksgiving. Dick Carlson, handyman, is retiring from work here.
- Dredging project – contractor will be leaving Boston the week of the 21st and head here.
- Boat Ramp Power – the Mayor's office called regarding the lack of lighting. Albright Electric has been contacted. A. Waterman added that he spoke with one of the owners and received email stating that UI will pull out the old wire and allow the electrician to do his work. R. Swift explained that the new cable is approx. \$ 7,000 and the wire is not part of the emergency funding received. He would check with Kim Kell, Risk Manager for City. R. Post said he would check on price with supply house.

Harbormaster's Report- B. Kurlya

- He reported that a few mooring holders still haven't paid yet. There is a waiting list for 2014.

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing – none

Finance

Savings: \$ 267,285.99

Checking: \$ 94,172.11

Total: \$ 361,458.10

Harbor & Mooring - none

Housatonic, Amendments- none

Correspondence:

R. Post received approved permit from Army Corps. For the Charles Island Oyster Farm dated October 11, 2013.

Old Business

Pond Dredging Update – none

Marina Dredging Update – Director's report

Proposed Boat Ramp Fee Increase – Chairman's report

Milford Harbor Federal Channel dredging

- B. Kurlya stated that everything was submitted for the sample plan; however a questionnaire was not filled out per DEEP, so he put that together and sent out but hasn't heard anything. R. POST added that the Conn Dot would fund 80% and Milford fund 20%, total project cost about \$600,000 which means funding needed around \$120,000. R. Oliver helped with drawings of parking lot across from Gulf Beach because a previous dewatering and stockpiling site was

identified directly across the street from Gulf Beach. In the past it was used for dredged material with direct waterfront access to Gulf Pond. The material could be hydraulic dredged, pumped to the site then loaded onto trucks and transported to other approved sites within the city (that site would need to be permitted). A more economical option is to have near shore site approved and use the USACE Currituck. A renewable permit, for the maintenance of the channel with reuse of the sand along Milford shoreline is recommended. B. Kurlya added that the Army Corp gave a 10 year permit back in 2007 for inland disposal, in water would require a new permit we also need a permit from DEEP.

Charles Island Oyster Farm

- R. Brennan made a motion to draft a letter to the City Attorney stating the Boards opposition to the project citing safety concerns. J. Beard seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding the same discrepancy in the data and drawings still incorrect being used in the permit granted by the Army Corp dated October 11, 2013. N. Bennett added that this project is an impediment to navigation and the City Attorney is aware of this problem. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

New Business - none

Motion to Adjourn

J. Beard made a motion to adjourn seconded by R. Post. The meeting closed at 8:10 pm.

Beverly A. Hayes
Recorder