

Milford Harbor Management Commission
December 19, 2013

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Present:

James Beard
Nancy Bennett
Robert Brennan
Ray Oliver
Robert Pacelli
Robert Post, Chairman
Alan Waterman
Ray Swift, Operations Director
Bruce Kurlya, Harbormaster
Larry Bodick, Deputy Harbormaster
Nick Veccharelli Board of Alderman

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent:

David Newman
John Nevin
Brian Bier, Board of Alderman

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

Consideration of Minutes of November 21, 2013

J. Beard made a motion to approve the minutes of November 21, 2013 seconded by N. Bennett. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments: *None*

New Business:

Christopher Viens, Charles Island Aquaculture – presented application for Charles Island Oyster Seaweed Application. The lot is marked L 534 on the map, off the Coast of Charles Island. Mr. Viens explained that the farm would be operational from January – March as this is a winter crop and only 1 line will be done this year. There would be buoys with reflectors marking off the four corners with 400 lb. anchorseach holding 30 inch buoys with long lines, which the seaweed grows on. There would 5 – 500 ft. long lines with 15” floats spaced 13.5 ft. apart, the longlines are spaced 50 ft. apart, located on 2.2 acres leased from Connecticut Aquaculture. Mainly surface crop, growth pulls the crop down and it is a non-invasive species. He explained that a boat can go over the area once the crop grows. Board members expressed concern about the location being in high traffic navigable waters and suggested a different location would be better. B. Kurlya explained the traffic patterns in this area of the proposed farm adding that the tug boats would destroy the lines. R. Brennan expressed concern for the anchor being dragged. The proposed location is right on the major path to the entrance to Milford’s Harbor from Port Jeff as well as Stratford/Housatonic River and all other points west. With the number of buoys, floats and long lines the Commission felt this proposal would be Hazard to navigation. C. Viens stated he would find another location and come back to the Board.

Chairman’s Report – Robert Post

- Next meeting is January 16, 2014.
- Boat Ramp Power –UI will energize it on the 27th.

- Boat Ramp Fee Increase –December 2, 2013 Board of Alderman denied the request for the increase. R. Post asked Alderman Veccharelli if he could explain the denial for which he responded that the increase in the fees was too high and they should bring them up slowly. It was just too large at one time so none was approved. Discussion ensued as to funding since the Pilot Funds are gone. J. Beard added these ramp fees were the only vehicle to raise revenue. The public access areas are aging and it is becoming more difficult to keep the facilities up, the insurance liability and they have been tagged twice already. Alderman Veccharelli stated that the Board of Alderman will be working on the Capital Budget soon and perhaps there is some way to get help.
- Dredging of the channel – R. Post informed Alderman Veccharelli of the dredging project of the channel and perhaps there could be Capital funds allocated. The project can be broken into two separate permits so they could take advantage of the Currituck coming up the coast and completing the minor portion first in the Spring and then work on the other permit for the whole 10' channel. A discharge site depends on the Vessel type (Currituck or Murden) and still needs to be approved by DEEP. The Murden is capable of working in waters as shallow as 5 feet. The split hull configuration allows for spoils discharge in shallow water as the spoils dump between the hulls, instead of underneath. Conn. DOT would fund 80% and Milford fund 20%.
- Bob Post named the following to be the Nominating committee: Al Waterman and Jim Beard

Director's Report – Ray Swift

- R. Swift stated he had a budget meeting and the money allocated for dredging still has some funds leftover so there may already be some funding available approx. \$ 45,000 for the Federal Channel.
- Pile driving through first of year and watching for ice adding that he needs to put in the fingers while the channel is clear.

Harbormaster's Report-B. Kurlya

- Renewals were sent out this week.
- Samples need to be done for the Channel dredging.

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing–Director report

Finance

Savings: \$ 267,375.35

Checking: \$ 80,111.73

Total: \$347,487.08

Harbor & Mooring- none

Housatonic, Amendments- none

Correspondence:Christmas Cards

- L. Bodick submitted a letter of resignation as the Deputy Harbormaster. The Board decided to give some thought as to who might best fill the position and they would discuss it at January meeting.

Old Business

Pond Dredging Update– none

Marina Dredging Update – Director report

Proposed Boat Ramp Fee Increase– Chairman's report

Milford Harbor Federal Channel dredging- Chairman's Report

Motion to Adjourn

A. Waterman made a motion to adjourn seconded by J. Beard. The meeting closed at 8:25 pm.

Beverly A. Hayes
Recorder