

**Milford Harbor Management Commission**  
**July 20, 2022**

**Board Members, Liaisons and Staff Present:**

Robert Brennan, Chairman  
Nancy Bennett, Secretary  
Jim Beard  
Raymond Kirmaier  
Dylan Mark  
Richard Preneta  
Dora Kubek  
Lee Henschman, Deputy Harbormaster  
James Donegan, Operations Director  
Raymond Vitali, Board of Aldermen

**Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent:**

Joseph Gilbert, Vice Chairman  
John Nevin  
Bruce Kuryla, Harbormaster  
Gregory Harla, Board of Aldermen

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Consideration of the minutes of the regular Meeting of June 22, 2022**

A motion was made by N. Bennett and seconded by R. Kirmaier to approve the minutes of June 22, 2022 with a correction on page 3 spelling, Ed Marin. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** R. Brennan – *Statements limited to the legislative function of the Harbor Management Plan. The time limit granted to each speaker shall be three (3) minutes.*

*Chris Augustine*, 110 Broadway, Bridgeport, CT, Fleet Captain at the Housatonic Boat Club presented concerns regarding the inspections of the mooring fields and failing helix. The first inspection of the mooring found that some of the helix' had failed. Individuals can seek their own secondary inspections; however, he expressed that one of the inspectors would not return his phone calls due to interference by the Deputy Harbormaster. R. Brennan explained that the Deputy Harbormaster works within the regulations of the Harbor Management Plan as to the inspections.

*Claudine DiSario*, 145 York Street, Stratford, Secretary to Housatonic Boat Club, stated that Stratford Harbor Management is seeking to have authority over all the mooring fields in the Housatonic River.

*Kevin Blagys*, KB Dive Services, 1 Bostwick Avenue, Bridgeport, provided a handwritten memo regarding his inspections. He explained he inspected 60 moorings for \$50 a mooring and he stands by his inspection that failed 16 of them citing concern regarding the helix slip over risks

which compromises the boat drifting away. He also expressed concern over the sand and the mooring equipment becoming buried.

*Mr. Henschman* responded that he is aware of the slip over risk and needs a videotape of the Chance Helical Anchor so they can find a solution with the manufacturer. We need a professional with a video/GoPro diver to do it, because you need to be able to see both ends. KB Dive does not have the equipment to do it, Sterling Marine does, however, the proposal for the inspections will go out to bid with the inspection of the end to end.

*Steve Walinski, 71 Mountain Road, Seymour CT*, Housatonic River Mooring Holder is an HBC member and his mooring is shoaled over, and he has not been inspected. He asked if there is a problem with him hiring Sterling Marine. Mr. Henschman responded he could hire Sterling and he could also provide other names of divers as well who will be able to do it.

**Chairman's Report:** Robert Brennan

- Video cameras have captured trespassing and climbing on boats. We need to do something to protect the boaters at the Landing. Discussion ensued as to best solutions to protect the area from trespassing and avoid confrontations as there is no monitoring in real time. J. Beard thought Police were going to monitor closely after Bars close.
- Sign on the City Dock – worked with City Attorney for appropriate verbiage and Public Works will be making the sign.

**Directors Report:** James Donegan

- Work at the Landing is winding up. Mike Krantz did the construction with Pat Divine, Public Works doing a fabulous job managing the project. A new sign has been added to replace the old one.
- Staff is working out great 7 days a week, from 8 am to 8 pm. The boat ramp is staffed on the weekends.
- Marina traffic is at good pace.
- Charles Island Music Festival was cancelled. Next event is the Rotary Lobster Bake.
- Security Issues on the docks and more people are down there fishing on the docks which is not allowed, they can fish on the boat ramp side but is real problem. After 8 pm they have also had bikers going up and down the docks and problems after the bars close. They need to block access with possibly a locking gate. Discussion ensued.
- Core was taking depths again using a depth sounder which covers a bigger area. The whole harbor and the mooring fields need to be done and he asked them but he could not get a straight answer.
- Kayak racks probably will not get done for this year due to lack of time currently. They need to be designed and built and will need to go out to bid. They are proposing galvanized steel, however, the pricing went up too high. R. Preneta offered to help so these can move ahead. J. Donegan explained that for ARPA funding they must go out for a competitive bid to be reimbursable under ARPA.

**Harbormaster Report:** Bruce Kuryla

**Deputy Harbormaster Report:** Lee Henschman

- Popes Island No Wake Zone Sign was sent to Yolanda Cooley at DEEP without Stratford signatures.
- Stamped drawings for the Bayview Beach Association with their application for swim buoys permits for the main beach also sent in to Yolanda Cooley at DEEP.
- Two new helix moorings are planned for the Milford Mooring Field, one is net new and the other will replace existing mushrooms .

**Permit Reviews:** None

**Report of Standing Committees:**

**Lisman Landing:** *R. Brennan appointed Dylan Mark for the vacancy*

**Finance:** James Donegan – Monthly financials were presented and year end revenue presentation with discussion ensuing.

Checking: \$ 229,786.53

Savings: \$ 271,430.80

Total: \$ 501,217.33

**Nominating:** *R. Brennan appointed Nancy Bennett to fill the vacancy.*

**Harbor and Mooring:** *None*

**Housatonic:** *None*

**Amendments:** *None*

**Correspondence:** *None*

**Shellfishing:** *R. Brennan will fill the vacancy on this committee.*

**Old Business:**

20 Rogers Avenue – Nothing to report

Channel and Dredging- R. Brennan – Core has people taking depths again. R. Preneta asked if the City expects the Harbor Commission to raise the funding to pay for the dredging. N. Bennett responded that there is federal funding, however, all the helix' must be removed in the mooring fields and re-installed when complete, which they already have a quote of \$150,000 for just that. The entire dredging cost is close to \$6 million. R Vitali added they can bond for it. J. Donegan explained the federal navigation includes anchorage but not of the marina. The marina was last done 8 years ago and our biggest slip is only 4 ft depth.

Port Authority and SHIPS GRANT: B. Kuryla – Nothing to report

Memorial Plaques - J. Donegan – A mason is cutting the bluestone for the area

New Projects: *None*

**New Business:**

Housatonic River Dive Inspection Requirements. – J. Donegan set out a PDF regarding the History and Proposed process changes, current Harbor Management Plan text regarding moorings and proposed Harbor Management Plan mooring inspection revisions and mooring sketches and led discussion regarding same.

Milford Harbor Management Plan – R. Brennan - Last revised in 2008 and it is time to revise, give a look over so we can update it.

**Liaisons:** Stratford- *None*

**Alderman** – *R. Vitali thanked the Commission for all the work they do.*

**Adjourn:**

D. Kubek made a motion to adjourn at 8:53 pm seconded by R. Preneta. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Hayes  
Recorder