

MINUTES

Milford Harbor Management Commission, September 21, 2023, 7:00 P.M., Lisman Landing

Board Members, Liaisons and Staff Present:

Robert Brennan, Chairman
Nancy Bennett, Secretary
Jim Beard
Joseph Gilbert
Raymond Kirmaier
Dora Kubek
Richard Preneta
Dylan Mark
John Nevin
James Donegan, Harbormaster
Lee Henchman, Deputy Harbormaster

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent: Raymond Vitali (Board of Aldermen)

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM.

Consideration of the minutes of the meeting of 19 July 2023

A motion by Ms. Kubek and seconded by Ms. Bennett to accept the minutes of 18 August 2023 meeting passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None.

Chairman's Report : R. Brennan

Chairman Brennan said he and Mr. Donegan, Mr. Henchman, and Mr. Preneta met with Hazelett Marine about removing Seaflexes in favor of Hazelette equipment, which is comparable but manufactured in the United States (Burlington VT) rather than in Sweden. He said he is working on details for a contract. There was discussion of the mechanics, durability, and materials. Mr. Henchman said he spoke with divers in New Jersey who inspected 16-year-old equipment that looked new. Mr. Donegan said he was negotiating for a 10-year warranty.

Permit Reviews: None.

Director's Report/ Harbormaster Report: J. Donegan

Mr. Donegan reported that the dredging review by the Army Corps of Engineers is done, and that the office has received a notice to proceed. A meeting with lowest bidder dredger Coastline Marine is scheduled. He said more details are to come on scheduling. Mr. Brennan discussed pricing coming below the grant and the need to set up a second stage for disposal of hazard materials. Mr. Preneta and Mr. Donegan discussed the scope of work to be done this winter. Mr. Henchman described the upcharge of upland disposal. Mr. Donegan clarified that the samples used to determine disposal were not precise and that removal could be done in a more surgical way. Ms. Bennett urged contact with state representatives to preserve funds for the second stage of the project. Discussion ensued about methodology and a court case in New York regarding restriction of open water disposal in LI Sound. Mr. Donegan said the mooring contract is close to complete with Waterfront Contracting heading up that project. He said the city used an RFP for this work instead of a bid so materials purchase could remain flexible; he thought there were good reasons for the city to buy direct. Mr. Nevin asked about email reminders for boat removal on 10/15; Mr. Donegan said he send several. Moreover, he said he's spoken to Port Milford and Milford Boatworks, where there are reports of early removals. He also assumes the presence of dredging equipment will reinforce the need to remove boats. He said marina traffic is slowing but still ahead of 2022 numbers.

Deputy Harbormaster Report: L. Henchman

Mr. Henchman said the Housatonic list has 2 or 3 boats waiting for a helix. He said only 15 of 54 mooring inspection reports have been submitted even though they were due 7/15. He said that at the end of the month he may have to

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advise the boat owners that they are in jeopardy of losing their moorings. He was concerned about ambiguous signatures appearing on diving reports. Mr. Gilbert asked about instructions for divers, Mr. Henchman said there is a detailed set of requirements provided to conduct assessments of equipment. He also shared an information brochure for the town of Cuttyhunk and suggested using it as a model to provide to visiting boaters in Milford.

Report of Standing Committees

Lisman Landing (Dylan Mark, John Nevin): **None**

Finance (Bob Brennan, Nancy Bennett):

Checking **\$ 295,380.08**

Savings **\$ 271,746.27**

Total **\$ 567,126.35**

Discussion ensued about a possible capital plan for upcoming maintenance projects. Mr. Donegan said he needs to include small repairs as well and will start a list of projects.

Nominating Committee (James Beard, Nancy Bennett) **None**

Harbor & Mooring (Richard Preneta, Bob Brennan) **Discussed previously.**

Housatonic (Raymond Kirmaier, Dora Kubek) **None**

Amendments (James Beard, Joseph Gilbert) **None**

Shell Fishing (Robert Brennan, Joseph Gilbert, Ray Kirmaier) Mr. Gilbert said a report on the results of efforts to spread shell will come in October/November with indications that it has been a good year so far, but not great.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business

20 Rogers Avenue – P&Z Updates: Nothing new.

Channel & Anchorage Dredging – Covered.

Ct. Port Authority – SHIPPS Grant: Nothing new. There was some discussion of an article not directly related to Milford regarding combining Port and Airport Authorities in CT.

Memorial Plaque—Nothing new.

New Business: Mr. Gilbert shared a brochure providing information about another town's harbor with an eye toward creating similar pieces for Milford. Mr. Kirmaier mentioned transient-boater welcome gifts (croakies, coffee cups, etc.)

Liaisons – None.

Adjournment was at 7:43 pm.

Attest: M.E. Greene, recording sec'y

Any individual with a disability who needs special assistance to participate in the meeting should contact the Operations Director, 874-1610, five days prior to the meeting if possible.