

## **Milford Harbor Management Commission, October 20, 2022, 7:00 P.M., Milford Landing**

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

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

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

Raymond Vitali, Board of Alders  
John Nevin  
Joseph Gilbert, Vice-Chairman

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

### **Consideration of the minutes of the regular Meeting of September 15, 2022**

A motion was made by D. Kubek and seconded by N. Bennett to approve the minutes of September 15, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** - *None*

### **Chairman's Report:** R. Brennan

Chairman Brennan said he was pleased to have received an email from Governor Lamont appointing Mr. Donegan as Harbormaster. He also shared positive publicity in a recent article written about the harbor in the Milford Mirror. He said that he and Mr. Donegan had reviewed priorities. Chairman Brennan also introduced Meg Greene who will be taking over meeting minutes duty from Beverly Hayes who served for several years in that capacity.

### **Director's Report:** J. Donegan

Mr. Donegan reported that the marina continued to be very busy through Columbus Day Weekend. He noted that the Milford Arts Council held an event under the Landing Pavilion. He said dock crews were all back at school but, some had agreed to work on weekends. He said the mooring field now 99% full and future applicants may require a waiting list, but this will be clearer once renewals start coming in. He reported that the grounds are in good shape.

### **Harbormaster Report:** : J. Donegan

Mr. Donegan said the Irish Festival and Octoberfest created spillover activity in the harbor area. He noted that revenue is similar to last year. He said cleaning the grounds and gardens was ongoing, that the "no wake" buoys are in, and that Sterling Marine started inspections last week while boats are still on moorings; only minor issues have been detected so far. He said water had been shut down and winterizing would start the next week, although the pump boat would remain active to the end of month. He said boat ramp floats would remain in place until early December when the fisherment are finished for the season. Ms. Bennett noted that the ramp has been busy with black fishing.

Mr. Donegan said he had started work on next year's budget and expected to have a draft in 3 weeks with no major changes anticipated. He said funds from the American Recovery Act had been set aside to rebuild dinghy and kayak racks using a new design with separate spaces and a new pricing scheme. Mr. Henschman asked if this would impact parking; Mr. Donegan said the lot by the launch has 5 spots—after that, parking overflow goes to the lot near the tennis courts. He said good signage near trailer spaces was important and staffing on weekends helps with enforcement.

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He said he is talking with the Army Corps of Engineers about the dredging project planned for the winter of 23-24 and that it will be sent out to bid, by the ACOE, after January 1. Discussion ensued about the location of the dredging (from the entrance channel to the boat ramp), the need to remove helixes and docks, the estimated project cost (6.5 million dollars), how much was in the budget, and whether addition funding might needed.

He said he and Chairman Brennan had discussed an increase in vandalism near the boat ramp and attributed it mostly to young kids making mischief in the greater downtown area. Mr. Donegan said he will speak to the Milford PD. Chairman Brennan said the harbor has a reputation for good service that should be preserved and that gates were planned. Ms. Brennan said she found it quiet on the town dock lately except for fishermen and some musicians rehearsing, but in prior years, there was some rowdiness. Chairman Brennan commended Mr. Donegan on dealing with kids, especially trying to reduce high-risk behavior like bike-riding. Mr. Donegan said he had reinforced ropes and included signage to keep trespassers out and that he will check to see if the dock can be extended paralleling the channel. There was also discussion of the problem of boaters without reservations taking slips that have been reserved on Dockwa.

There was discussion of the possibility of the Coast Guard Auxiliary moving out of the small building they currently occupy with the classes they sponsor moving to the Fowler Building.

Chairman Brennan said he spoke with the mayor about putting water and power on the long dock; Mr. Donegan said money was being allocated.

There was discussion of existing power and water facilities and how to extend them. An estimate is being sought to raise the pier as it now goes underwater during full moons, with the idea that there is enough piling to raise pier 2-3 feet.

Mr. Preneta offered to help coordinate creation of new boat launch racks with Mr. Donegan, bearing in mind late harbormaster Bruce Kuryla's designs for kayaks and dinghy spaces. Mr. Donegan said he met with City Purchasing Agent Fred Bialka regarding the bidding process. Mr. Henchman shared information about the cost of helixes and the high cost of inspecting and possibly replacing them. Mr. Preneta suggested a cost analyze of helix maintenance, which Mr. Henchman had already developed. Discussion ensued about removal and reinstallation done 2 years ago and whether their condition may allow for reuse. Further discussion about the challenges of maintaining helixes in the river, where they are subject to more deterioration. There was detailed discussion of the mechanics of helixes and the history of their use in the harbor, maintenance, and the need for inspections.

Mr. Donegan said the harbor ended the season with 99% of its moorings filled. He said there is now a waiting list of 15 boats for next summer, and that renewals would be sent via email at the end of the year.

### **Deputy Harbormaster Report: L. Henchman**

Mr. Henchman said direction on how best to manage allocation and reallocation of helixes and ground tackle should be addressed in Harbor Management Plan. He reported that a boat broke loose and its helix had been identified. He said Sterling Marine had previously advised of this risk, but the owner had not acted on this report. He said a request for bids on mooring inspections was with the City Purchasing Department and the City Attorney's Office. He said next year's criteria is for the dive company is to excavate to 2 feet and do end-to-end inspections while boats are on their moorings. The cost of mooring inspections will be invoiced with mooring renewals. The result would be good for 2 years. This follows the Harbor Management Plan; Mr. Donegan confirmed that these inspections have long been part of the Harbor Commission Plan, but adherence had lapsed. Discussion ensued about the proportion of helixes versus mushrooms (60%/40%), which are all mixed throughout the grid. He said the mooring field has capacity for a 40' boat with the Stratford field in the Housatonic capable of handle bigger boats.

The chair decided that a vote was needed to reinstate inspections per the Harbor Plan.

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Mr. Preneta motioned to return to adherence to the Harbor Management Plan's guidelines for administering mooring inspections and that accordingly, a contract would be sent out for bidding. Sec 41, paragraph (b) regarding mooring inspections was read into record with Sec 16, 1-67 from city ordinance granting authority to do so.

Ms. Bennet seconded.

Discussion: none

The motion carried unanimously.

**Permit Reviews:** None

### **Report of Standing Committees:**

Lisman Landing (Dylan Mark, John Nevin)—none

Finance (Bob Brennan, Nancy Bennett):

Checking account: \$ 222,521.15

Savings account: \$271,478.40

Total: \$493,999.55

Nominating Committee (James Beard, Nancy Bennett)—none

Harbor & Mooring (Richard Preneta, Bob Brennan) discussed—none

Housatonic (Raymond Kirmaier, Dora Kubek)—none

Amendments (James Beard, Joseph Gilbert)—none

Shell Fishing (Robert Brennan, Joseph Gilbert, Ray Kirmaier)—none

**Correspondence**—none

### **Old Business**

- Ct. Port Authority – SHIPPS Grant: Mr. Donegan read a section of minutes, mostly dealing with the New London pier
- Bayview and Bayview Heights –Deputy Harbormaster Henchman said maps had been sent.
- Memorial Plaques –Mr. Donegan said plans a mason is working on Ray Oliver's memorial plaque at Milford Monument and a dedication will be planned in the spring.
- Housatonic River Dive Inspection Requirements was covered.
- Fueling on fuel dock –Mr. Henchman has discussed transferring fuel over water with the Coast Guard pollution prevention unit, who wanted to know if this activity has been witnessed. It was suggested that the city ordinance should be enforced by the MPD, but Chairman Brennan needs to discuss this with the City Attorney's Office. An episode of a dangerous fire risk during the Oyster Festival and how to handle such incidents was discussed. There was agreement that a plan should be in place.

New Business: None.

Liaisons – Stratford—None.

Aldermen--None

Adjournment was at 8:14

Respectfully submitted,

M.E. Greene

*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.*