

## MINUTES

### Milford Harbor Management Commission, April 20, 2023, 7:00 P.M., Chamber of Commerce

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

Robert Brennan, Chairman  
Nancy Bennett, Secretary  
Jim Beard  
Raymand Kirmaier  
Dora Kubek  
Dylan Mark  
John Nevin  
Richard Preneta  
James Donegan, Harbormaster  
Lee Henschman, Deputy Harbormaster  
Gregory Harla, Board of Aldermen  
Raymond Vitali, Board of Aldermen

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

Joseph Gilbert, Vice-Chairman

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

#### **Consideration of the minutes of the meeting of March 16, 2023**

A motion was made by Mr. Nevin and seconded by Ms. Kubek to accept the minutes of 16 March 2023 meeting; it passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

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

Chairman Brennan said he contacted State Representative Smith and State Senator Maroney to provide more insight as they deliberate on the Harbor Commission bill. He noted an article in the Connecticut Post about dredging the creek next to Safe Harbor Marina. Mr. Donegan said he was aware of the project and is monitoring activity.

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

Mr. Donegan opened his remarks with discussion of the new dinghy racks. The group agreed that they look great, but Mr. Kirmaier said he was worried about how sturdy they were, given some swaying he observed. Mr. Harla showed the group a bracket that he thought might help secure the racks. Mr. Henschman said crossbucks were considered, but not used and noted that all kayak spaces have rails. Mr. Beard said that the timber used for the new racks was heavier than the previous racks had, and yet the old racks lasted for 20 years. More discussion ensued about the hardware and techniques used and whether other approaches might brace the racks more securely. Chairman Brennan thought it best to monitor how the racks hold up as they are filling quickly. There was mention of a CT Post reporter who wanted information for a story. There was approval expressed for new lighting on the landing but concern about a recent vandalism in the Boatworks area. Chairman Brennan said he wants to talk with the Milford PD about ways to improve security. Ms. Kubek said a police substation would help during weekends.

Mr. Donegan reported that the mooring field is full with 20 boats still on the waiting list and more names being added. He said the marina is in good shape with reservations coming in steadily and some yacht club bookings, including a Ranger Tug group. He stated that the upgraded restrooms are progressing nicely with walls and tiling nearly done, plus 2 new doors to the patio. He said work on the floors would be done soon. Chairman Brennan commended the design.

Mr. Donegan said the city's IT group is rewiring data cables in the building, and that there will be Wi-Fi in the pavilion. He said secure door access control is also being wired.

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Mr. Donegan moved on to the dredging project, saying he had spoken with the Army Corps and that final approval was received from CT DEEP this week. Discussion ensued on funding to remove, replace, reinstall helixes. He noted that dive inspections are done every season and repairs have been done over the years, but there is no certainty as to what will be pulled up. He reported no progress in finding funding via grants, therefore, he is talking to the city's Finance Director soon. Discussion ensued about a bidding outcome of \$650,000 approximately 3 years ago for removal and reinstallation of the helixes. Mr. Donegan said he was not sure how much higher the cost might be in today's market, but he thought it might be as high as \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. The group discussed possible expenses for various aspects of the project. Mr. Beard speculated that the cost of metal will have changed. Mr. Donegan and Mr. Henchman discussed technical aspects of the replacement. Ms. Bennett wanted to revisit the contamination problem as she is concerned that it might inhibit public access. She said she wants samples to be taken to assess the size of the problem. Chairman Brennan discussed nature of testing. Mr. Donegan noted that the Army Corp will have acceptance requirements to approve a sampling plan for dredging permits. More discussion ensued on what this might entail. Chairman Brennan said the primary objective was to complete the original dredging plan and this requires removal of helixes. He said the last mooring field dredging occurred in 1987 and Mr. Donegan remarked that this dredging project was so close to getting done, the opportunity to complete it can't be allowed to pass. There had been hope that the state representatives could secure other funds, but this did not occur. Discussion with the aldermanic representatives about fund allocation, bonding, boating tax policy, and the commission's own finances ensued. Mr. Donegan and Chairman Brennan said they would meet with the city's financial staff to gather more information.

Mr. Donegan said that the consultant, Mr. Steadman, will come to a future meeting to determine possible involvement in updating the harbor management plan.

Mr. Donegan said the pier dedication would occur on 5/20 with the plaque to be installed and a program created.

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

Mr. Henchman said the Housatonic mooring field is full with 2 or so applications still waiting, and almost all paid up.

**Permit Reviews:** A permit application was received for 103 Housatonic Drive. Ms. Bennett said the project is similar to its neighbors and she motioned to approved it. Mr. Nevin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Finance (Bob Brennan, Nancy Bennett):

**Checking**     **\$ 265,743.79**

**Savings**     **\$ 271,632.39**

**Total**       **\$ 535,376.18**

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

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

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**

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

Channel & Anchorage Dredging – Previously covered.

Ct. Port Authority – SHIPPS Grant: Nothing new.

Memorial Plaque—no action regarding flagpole.

**New Business: None**

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**Liaisons** – Stratford—None.

Some general questions and discussion ensued regarding possible acquisition of the Coast Guard building and dock extension, but nothing definitive was identified. Mr. Preneta asked about the flow of information between the commission and the administration. The possibility of writing a 10-year plan was discussed with an emphasis on how the harbor has progressed and grown as a revenue generator for the city.

**Adjournment** was at 8:22

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.