

Milford Harbor Management Commission

December 21, 2017

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Present:

Robert Brennan, Chairman
James Beard
Joseph Gilbert
Raymond Kirmaier
John Nevin
Ray Oliver, Vice Chairman
Robert Pacelli
Bruce Kurlya, Harbormaster
Ray Swift, Operations Director

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent:

Nancy Bennett, Secretary
Dora Kubek
Lee Henschman, Deputy Harbormaster
Ray Vitali, Board of Alderman
Nick Veccharelli, Board of Alderman

R. Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

R. Brennan explained to the Commission that this is a special meeting requiring 24 hours notice and only the item on the agenda will be discussed. He introduced Bob Whewy from Codespoti & Associates who is here to explain the proposed pedestrian walkway.

Permit Reviews - Proposed pedestrian walkway located at 460 Gulf Street.

B. Whewy laid out the plans for the commission to review. He explained the city is applying for a Lotcip grant (90/10 split) to make improvements to Gulf Street. There will be tidal wetland creation and restoration, public access improvements including an elevated boardwalk and retaining wall in conjunction with roadway widening of Gulf Street and tidal wetland mitigation. He explained that John Gaucher, DEEP walked the property and gave his input. There is a drop off in that location, so the retaining wall will provide slope stability, help with the invasive species and mitigate the tidal wetlands. The Boardwalk will give the public a view of Gulf Pond. B. Kurlya added that DEEP wants the mitigation in this area and this is part of the process. Mr. Whewy continued that the pilings take up less than 20 sq. ft. so there is minimal infringement on the wetlands. J. Gilbert questioned if a Shellfish assessment has been done with regards to the location of the pilings. B. Pacelli added there will be some impact to the area, but you have to trade something and the benefit is public safety, keeping the sidewalk away from the road, and the area benefitting from the mitigation. R. Oliver agreed that this will address the safety issue. R. Swift added that the citizens will really appreciate this project, which he hears all the time about the water view enhancements the city makes. J. Gilbert says the set is incomplete because it doesn't depict the outer and inner limits and expressed concern that this might be a shellfish habitat. R. Oliver explained that DEEP has not seen this yet and will have input to the plan.

B. Kurlya made a motion to approve in that the Commission has determined that the work as described in Part1 of this form Attachment E and its attachments is Consistent with the Harbor Management Plan to construct a proposed pedestrian walkway. J. Nevin seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued as the location of the walkway, perhaps pulling it in so it is closer to the retaining wall and lessen the impact on the Pond. They expressed concern that the drawings did not delineate the outer limit of the Spartina on the drawing submitted.

R. Oliver amended the motion to state in order to mitigate the impact on Gulf Pond, that the boardwalk be pulled back closer to the retaining wall. Also that Codespoti & Associates delineate the outer limit of the Spartina on the drawings submitted to DEEP. J. Beard seconded the motion. The amendment passed unanimously.

The motion with the amendment passed unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn

J. Beard made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm seconded by R. Kirmaier and carried unanimously.

The meeting closed at 8:04 pm.

Beverly A. Hayes
Recorder