

Milford Harbor Management Commission

February 16, 2017

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Present:

Robert Post, Chairman
Robert Brennan, Vice Chairman
Nancy Bennett, Secretary
James Beard
Raymond Kirmaier
Dora Kubek
John Nevin
Ray Oliver
Robert Pacelli
Bruce Kurlya, Harbormaster
Lee Henschman, Deputy Harbormaster
Ray Swift, Operations Director
Bryan Anderson, Alderman

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent:

Brian Bier, Board of Alderman
Nick Veccharelli, Board of Alderman

R. Post, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Consideration of Minutes of January 19, 2017

R. Brennan made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2017 seconded by N. Bennett . The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

Chairman's Report—R. Post—See Below

Director's Report – R. Swift

- Mooring Fields are finished.
- Public Works re-did the two hand carved signs and the sign for the Town Dock is ready.
- The bubbler system and ice eaters are coming out soon.

Harbormaster's Report—B. Kurlya

- Invoices went out
- The shackles removed were put into a chart of the field, to determine if those in bad condition were from one area, however, it was not as bad as they thought, only a couple of hot spots.
- Port Authority has set aside 2 million for our channel

Permit Reviews—None

Joseph Gilbert explained he is the owner of Briarpatch Enterprises, Inc., a shellfish company based here in Milford. He explained that this is not a permit application. He proposed in a letter to the Board of Alderman, that his company to be provided the exclusive right to plant and cultivate shellfish in Gulf Pond South, between Buckingham Avenue and the Gulf Street bridge, approximately 66.66 acres. He is requesting a five year license agreement and proposes to pay the City of Milford \$4,000 per year in

addition to the \$55./per acre license fee. R. Brennan questioned whether anyone else uses the pond for shellfishing? Coury Matias, 421 Seaview Avenue, Bridgeport, explained that there could be no exclusive right per paperwork he submitted to the Commission as this is a natural bed. Mr. Gilbert explained that when many people use the area it is mismanaged and has poor growth conditions. He intends to cultivate it and bring back to what it used to be. Ben Goetsh, an employee of Briarpatch added that legislative research shows that private cultivation protects the water quality. He added that they will work with the City to address concerns and it will benefit the public. R. Oliver passed out a paper with his Concerns and Impacts of this lease which were discussed with one of them being the concern that the silt would end up at the end of Harbor that they just paid to have dredged. Mr. Gilbert responded that he is entering into this agreement which will stop the free for all that is occurring right now, adding that if the Commission would like to propose restrictions would that be acceptable? R. Brennan added that it may be better under the control of someone rather than the free for all it is now, so it can be managed. N. Bennett explained that she contacted Dave Carey (Aquaculture) and he didn't know anything about this proposal and the commission is being asked to put their blessing on for exclusive use and we need time to research this. She added that Aquaculture has numerous permits issued in there for the past two seasons. Robert Granfield, Granfield Fishery, 38 Terrell Drive, explained that the spirit of the natural beds is that that they are open to the Public and this needs to be looked into and it needs Public Comment. Chairman Post felt that it should be tabled to come up with a sub-committee to look into this.

Ray Oliver made a motion to ask the Board of Alderman to delay voting on this application till the Harbor Commission comments on it. R. Brennan seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing–None

Finance– R. Swift–

Savings	\$ 269,075.83
Checking	\$ 35,281.99
Total	\$ 304,357.82

Harbor & Mooring-B. Kurlya- see Harbormaster Report

Housatonic, Amendments- Lee Henschman

- Dropped off 68 renewals for the River, 11 open spots turned over and 8 filled, 3 open left
- Invoices went out

Correspondence: *None*

Old Business:

Charles Island Barge – Greg Davis explained that he presented the Commission with his plan for the Charles Island Barge with a floating restaurant at the January meeting. The applicant was tabled and he is back to answer any more questions. He submitted to the commission the barge specifications. The Commission discussed the moorings and anchorage definitions and the feasibility of the proposal, plans during inclement weather and safety. R. Swift felt that the shuttle could maybe use the long dock across the way, adding that they can work something out if approved. BoyScout, Logan Griffin, expressed concern on how a fire would be handled with Mr. Davis responding that inflatables would be there along with Coast Guard. Mr. Davies added that the barge when the season is over or serious weather conditions would be moved to either New Haven or Bridgeport Harbor.

Ray Oliver made a motion to approve contingent that receive all the other required agency approvals. N. Bennett seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Pond Dredging Update

Inner Harbor Dredging

Housatonic River Dredging– R. Post stated that it went out to bid. There is 300,000 cubic yards to be dredged and taken to Hammonasset Beach. This may set a precedent for future for reuse of sand along Milford shoreline. The Port Authority meetings are listed on the website and good idea to keep your eye on the website for new information.

New Business:*None*

Liaisons-Stratford – *None*

Alderman–Bryan Anderson

- C. Saley is going to repair the pot hole at the end of the driveway with hot patch.
- Founders Walk is underway being handled by Public Works to build a walkway and viewing areas with rock facades and plantings. A kiosk will have information about the founders and a Veteran's aspect and is all being done in house.
- R. Swift explained that the high cost of the insurance is a concern and he would like to get some relief as 80% of the landing is public while 20% is the marina and the Harbor budget pays for it. B. Anderson suggested this be brought up at the Board of Alderman budget meeting.
- J. Beard added that when they went before the Board of Alderman to raise the fees, they were promised in return some relief on their insurance to compromise. The liability that we have is unfair and he would like the promise revisited. B. Anderson responded that he does recall this discussion and again it should be brought up during the budget hearings. R. Swift added that the ramp fees are fine, it is the mooring fields that need to be looked into.

Planning & Zoning - *None*

Motion to Adjourn

J. Beard made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm seconded by R. Brennan and carried unanimously. The meeting closed at 8:20 pm.

Beverly A. Hayes
Recorder