

Milford Harbor Management Commission

March 16, 2017

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Present:

Robert Post, Chairman
Robert Brennan, Vice Chairman
Nancy Bennett, Secretary
Raymond Kirmaier
Dora Kubek
Ray Oliver
Lee Henchman, Deputy Harbormaster
Ray Swift, Operations Director

Board Members, Liaisons & Staff Absent:

James Beard
John Nevin
Robert Pacelli
Bruce Kurlya, Harbormaster
Brian Bier, Board of Alderman
Nick Veccharelli, Board of Alderman

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

He welcomed the Boy Scouts who are in attendance at this meeting.

Consideration of Minutes of February 16, 2017

N. Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2017 seconded by R. Oliver. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Gulf Pond Oystering Beds

R. Oliver stated that the committee to review and make recommendations included himself, R. Kirmaier and R. Brennan. He explained after much review with the members they came up with the following 5 Point Plan:

- The Gulf Street Oyster Beds are a Public Resource and a Natural Growth Bed.
 - Open bid or lottery for a lease of 3 year terms.
 - 5 – 10 acre parcels, remainder left for reseeded
 - 200 ft. setback from the shoreline
 - Open December – March, dawn to dusk
 - Harvesting by hand picking or tongs only replace shell

In addition to the 5 points, Milan Bull of the Connecticut Audubon Society submitted written comments. As well as David Carey of the CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture. R. Brennan added that after review of the CT General Statutes it is clear that the Board of Alderman will need to hold a public hearing on this matter and ultimately make the decision, however, the commission recommendations will be forwarded to them along with the letters.

Ben Goetsch from Briarpatch explained the history of the shellfish beds which were designed to be an economic booster and he explained the area on the map and the jurisdiction. They are seeking a co-

management lease with the City. Joseph Gilbert, Briarpatch owner stated the could make a fair proposal to the City and explained they use the best farming practices, explaining them. He stated the best time to harvest is between September 20th thru July 20, a 9 month span, usually suspending in the coldest times for preservation of the Oysters. He explained the a 3 year lease would not provide enough time to benefit from the investment put in. He explained that he has been in business 35 years and invited the Commission to come to his facility. He added that the he would work with the City to design a lease and workable plan to satisfy both the City and his business.

R. Post stated that he would like to move this forward to the Board of Alderman.

R. Kirmaier made a motion to send the committee recommendations to the Board of Alderman. R. Oliver seconded the motion. N. Bennett added that she would like the letter from David Carey, Aquaculture and Milan Bull, Ct Audubon Society included with the recommendations to the Board of Alderman. R. Kirmaier included the letters be added to the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report–R. Post

- *Pond Dredging Update* – There is 3.2 million bonded, the work will start at Eisenhower and work down through the two ponds and lastly the pond area behind Stonebridge. The Pre-Bid walk is scheduled for the 22nd. He brought the plans for the Commission to review. The work is scheduled for the fall and with the stone work in the two ponds we will see how far the money will go.
- *CT Port Authority – “SHIP” – Proposed Projects*– Working with Julie Nash, Community Development Coordinator on the following applications for submission due April 17, 2017. There is 7 million available statewide. N. Bennett added the City is planning for improvements to Gulf Street including paving from Old Field Lane to Cherry Street, and some overlooks, so it would be nice to get this Bridge removed and the fishing area done at same time.
 - Gulf Street Bridge Removal-Proposed Fishing OverlookArea
 - Lisman Landing – Dock Repair (decking), upgraded power pedestals

Director's Report – R. Swift

- SHIP Program – there is approximately 14,000 sq. ft. of dock surface so looking to get ballpark figure to resurface and investigating materials for the April 17th application deadline..
- Paddleboards – J. Nash and Mayor met with him regarding paddleboarding out of Milford Landing. He expressed safety concerns and the Commission weighed in theirs. N. Bennett added Walnut Beach is best place for this. Scoot and Paddle business down there.

Harbormaster's Report- L. Henchman

- 67 Mooring, 6-8 lost due to the sandbar, 4 empty, 45 of the 64 have been returned, 19 outstanding.
- Boat Club will piggyback on Housatonic Dredging.

Permit Reviews

- Beachland Avenue – elevation of the road – no action required by he Commission

Report of Standing Committees

Milford Landing–None

Finance– R. Swift– Savings \$ 269,117.11
Checking \$ 67,289.26

Total \$ 336,406.37

Harbor & Mooring-R. Post

- Seaflex Repair is complete. R. Swift added that everything is paid for,

Housatonic, Amendments- None

Correspondence: *None*

Old Business:

Memorial Bricks – R. Swift explained that the bricks cost between \$20-\$30 engraved and they can put some around the trees and leave the flagpole area for past commissioners.

Pond Dredging Update – See Chairman's Report

Inner Harbor Dredging – R. Post – The sampling and permitting needs to be done.

Housatonic River Dredging– R. Post stated the low bid Crushman and has not been awarded.

New Business:*None*

Liaisons-Stratford – *None*

Alderman - *None*

Planning & Zoning - *None*

Motion to Adjourn

N. Bennett made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm seconded by R. Brennan and carried unanimously. The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

Beverly A. Hayes
Recorder