

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF May 18, 2010**

A meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) was held on Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in Meeting Room II of the Honorable John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Rd, Fairfield, CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary von Conta, Chairman; David Drabaski; E. Hewitt Gaynor; Louis Schueler; Sandye Mann, Hugh Smith; and Nelson North. **ABSENT:** John Zygmant and James P. Bradley. **ALSO PRESENT:** Patrick Carroll, Harbor Master; Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Robin Bimmel, Public Works Dept; Thomas Steinke, Conservation Director, Joel Kunkel, Pequot Yacht Club, Steven Klemenz and Thomas Rudkin, Country Club of Fairfield; Bruce Kueffner, Commodore, Pequot Yacht Club, John Roberge, Consultant; and Andrew Brophy, Press.

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chairman Mary von Conta. Sandye Mann and Nelson North were appointed to sit as full members.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2010 MEETING:

Hugh Smith *moved* and Sandye Mann *seconded* to approve the Minutes of April 20, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*

II. CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Mary von Conta reported the following correspondence:

Letters sent by Harbor Master Pat Carroll to Town of Fairfield CFO Paul Hiller. Enclosed in each letter were checks for fees collected for the renewal of mooring permits in Southport Harbor, for mooring maintenance charges where required, and for Waiting List applications:

April 25, 2010: Check in the amount of \$325.00: (permit: \$150.00; maintenance: \$175.00.)

May 3, 2010: Checks in the amount of \$480.00 and cash in the amount of \$100.00 for mooring permits.

May 7, 2010: Checks in the amount of \$450.00: (permits: \$250.00; maintenance: \$200.00).

May 13, 2010: Checks in the amount of \$470.00: (permits: \$150; maintenance: \$320.00)

April 25, 2010: From Harbor Master Carroll to Mr. Hiller requesting that he refund \$50.00 to Mr. Chung Lew for overpayment of his permit fee.)

April 16, 2010: A copy of a letter from Harbor Master Carroll to Mr. Olof Nelson informing Mr. Nelson of Section 8 (b) of the HMC's "Rules and Procedures for Mooring and Anchoring Vessels in Southport Harbor" which authorizes the HMC to limit the issuance of mooring permits for vessels with joint ownership. Harbor Master Carroll then stated in this letter the conditions under which a Mooring Permit would be issued to Mr. Nelson.

April 21, 2010: A letter from Harbor Master Carroll to Mr. Gary Dean informing Mr. Dean that he is no longer entitled to a mooring permit in Southport Harbor because he failed to submit a properly completed 2010 mooring permit renewal application by the renewal deadline of February 28, 2010.

April 25, 2010: From Harbor Master Carroll to Mr. Robin Bimmel, Department of Public Works, informing Mr. Bimmel that he had issued permits to three new boaters. Two of the boaters would be taking dinghy spots previously occupied by the boaters they replaced and by one boater who will need a space at the Town dinghy dock.

April 23, 2010: A copy of a COP application to conduct repairs on the stone seawall at the Flaster residence, 911 Harbor Rd, Southport, CT sent by Triton Environmental to Susan Jacobson, analyst, at the CT DEP OLISP. (The COP was subsequently issued and no action is required by the HMC.)

April 27, 2010: From Thomas Steinke, Town of Fairfield Conservation Department Director, to Ms. Diane Ray of the Army Corps of Engineers inquiring about the channel at the mouth of Southport Harbor and whether it could be shifted westerly to avoid environmental harm to protected areas.

Early in May: an e-mailed copy of the May 12, 2010 Fairfield Shellfish Commission Meeting Agenda.

May 13, 2010, from State of CT DEP-OLISP; a copy of COP#200800754-TS, regarding T. George Vatis, to conduct regulated activities at 353 Old Dam Road (out of HMC jurisdiction).

5/17/10, Invoice from Dymar to HMC in the amount of \$2,050.00, for professional services rendered in connection with the topographic survey.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

Chairman von Conta indicated that she had attended the recent budget meeting of the RTM in which the HMC budget request had been considered. Despite the Chairman's efforts, there remains a reduction of \$1,000.00 in the fees and professional services account for the 2010-2011 fiscal budget of the HMC.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Sand Management Report: Geoff Steadman provided the Commission with a brief summary of the recent activities, noting the meeting with the State DEP and various parties of interest concerning sand management issues. Mr. Steadman indicated that in response to a request by the CT DEP for documentation quantifying the problem concerning the accretion of sand in the harbor, the Commission retained the survey firm Dymar to conduct a topographic survey of the sand bar adjoining the federal jetty at the mouth of the harbor. The Commission reviewed the completed survey and aerial photographs of the surveyed area. Geoff Steadman and Mr. Roberge provided a summary of the findings, and compared the information with that from the January 2007 survey. This new survey revealed that approximately 2400 cubic yards of sand has accreted into the

surveyed area (the sand bar adjoining the jetty above the water line) within the past three years. The Commission reviewed a drawing prepared by Dymar which set forth cross sections showing the areas of accretion. Mr. Roberge remarked that the shoal continues to accumulate, and recommended that a hydrographic survey also be done to further document the problem. Mr. Roberge indicated that the cost to perform the hydrographic survey is \$7,890.00, which includes the area from the sand bar to Kensie Point. Additionally, Mr. Roberge recommended that the area of the survey be expanded from the area of the Commission's previous hydrographic survey in order to gather sufficient information so that the HMC will be in a better position to establish a sand management plan, including the most beneficial use and placement of the dredged material. The information received to date, as well as the future studies will be necessary to establish the base line data. Thomas Rudkin indicated that his review of the Country Club of Fairfield records to date did not reveal any dredging activities in the area offshore of the Country Club beach. Geoff Steadman remarked that there is approximately 14,000 cy of sand in the sand bar, and the results of this recent study show a 15-20% increase in sand accumulation in a three-year period. Mr. Steadman further advised the Commission that he has been communicating with the Town's Department of Public Works to obtain figures concerning costs incurred in the past for sand removal/relocation. Upon inquiry by Louis Schueler, Mr. Roberge indicated that the continued shoaling of the harbor channel and resulting constriction of tidal flushing may have an impact on environmental conditions in the harbor. David Drabaski noted his concern regarding shoaling in the outer-channel, and recommended that consideration be given to surveying this area as well. Mr. Steadman recommended that the Commission contact the Corps of Engineers about this matter. Following considerable discussion, Sandye Mann moved and Nelson North seconded to approve and authorize Roberge Associates to conduct a hydrographic survey, inclusive of Kensie Point, for the amount proposed by Mr. Roberge. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Roberge indicated that, as a courtesy, he would expand his efforts to include a portion of the outer-channel which was the noted subject of concern by Mr. Drabaski. Sandye Mann moved and David Drabaski seconded to contact the US Army Corps of Engineers to request that they examine the area of the outer-channel, and to also advise the Corps of HMC efforts and current studies being performed. Motion passed unanimously.

Lower Wharf Report – Mr. Steadman: Hugh Smith indicated that he had visited the lower wharf area today, and that area has been cleaned up; the sand accumulation is out of the grass area. Chairman von Conta reported that she has discussed the status of the DEP's review of the Commission's permit application for Lower Wharf improvements with a representative of the DEP who informed Chairman von Conta that additional information concerning that status will be provided to the Commission by the DEP next week.

Mooring Report: Harbor Master Carroll reported that the Mooring Committee has had continued discussions concerning joint ownership of a vessel. Mr. Carroll indicated that as issues arise, the Committee members give considerable review and discussion to arrive at a consensus decision. Harbor Master Carroll further reported that he has received seven responses (out of a total of 14) to the letters he had sent out to the various shorefront owners who have docks. He will continue to review the matter and keep the Commission apprised. Harbor Master Carroll advised the Commission that Mr. Flaster has agreed to delay the construction of his permitted dock until the fall, and is now proceeding with his permitted wall repairs.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Geoff Steadman reported that the Town of Westport is working on a watershed plan for the purpose of avoiding or reducing runoff pollution in Sasco Brook. Mr. Steadman noted that a survey was conducted, in which Staples High School Students had polled Westport residents, and obtained various opinions concerning the watershed. Mr. Steadman suggested that one of the students may wish to provide a presentation to the Harbor Management Commission concerning the results of the study. It was the consensus of the Commission to request that Geoff Steadman invite the student to provide a presentation at the June meeting.

Sandye Mann invited the Commissioners to attend the Sea Memorial Ceremony to be held on Saturday, May 29, 2010 at the South Benson Marina, in honor of the service men and women who died on the water in the service of their country.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Hugh Smith *moved* and Nelson North *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously*

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Gabriel