

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2010**

A meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) was held on Tuesday, July 20, 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; John Zygmant; Louis Schueler; Hugh Smith; E. Hewitt Gaynor; Sandye Mann, and Nelson North. **ABSENT:** James P. Bradley. **ALSO PRESENT:** Patrick Carroll, Harbor Master; Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Thomas Steinke, Conservation Director, Joel Kunkel, Pequot Yacht Club, Steven Klemenz and Thomas Rudkin, Country Club of Fairfield.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman Mary von Conta.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2010 MEETING:

John Zygmant *moved* and Nelson North *seconded* to approve the Minutes of June 15, 2010 with the following revision: Page three, Mooring Report, is revised to read:

Mooring Report: Harbor Master Carroll reported that upon his inspection, all moorings are currently occupied in the Pequot Yacht Club/Perry Green and North Anchorage areas. Harbor Master Carroll further indicated that the lower harbor mooring area has approximately twenty (20) vacant moorings, in that they are not currently occupied by the permitted boaters. The Southport Street Parade and Blessing of the Fleet was held last weekend; it was a very successful event, and approximately 50 vessels participated. Mr. Carroll thanked Geoff Steadman and Hugh Smith for their efforts related to this event.

Motion passed unanimously.

II. CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Mary von Conta reported the following correspondence:

Below are listed the dates of 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 mooring Waiting List applications:

July 1, 2010: Checks in the amount of \$300.00: (permit: \$200.00; Waiting List application fees: \$100.00. Gardner Horan #125, David Smith #126)

July 14, 2010: Checks in the amount of \$100.00: (Waiting List application fees. Muro #127, Vought #128).

June 15, 2010: From Harbor Master Carroll to Mr. J. Gardner Horan, 110 Baldwin Terrace, Fairfield CT 06824 acknowledging receipt of his mooring permit fee and returning the mooring maintenance fee which is not applicable to the North Anchorage moorings. In addition he acknowledged receipt of a 2010 Waiting List application and fee. (# 125)

June 25, 2010: From Harbor Master Carroll to Mr. David Smith, 156 Hulls Highway, Southport, CT 06890 acknowledging receipt of a 2010 Waiting List application and fee. (#126)

July 8, 2010: From Harbor Master Carroll to Mr. Gerard J. Muro, 14 Willow St., Southport, CT 06890 acknowledging receipt of a 2010 Waiting List application and fee. (#127)

July 14, 2010: From Harbor Master Carroll to Ms Virginia Vought, 201 Dunnlea Road, Fairfield, CT 06824 acknowledging receipt of a 2010 Waiting List application and fee. (#128)

Early in July: a copy of the Shellfish Commission's Agenda for its meeting on June 9, 2010.

From DEP/OLISP to HMC a Notice of Tentative Determination to approve Mr. Bell's application for a permit to remove an existing timber crib and install a boat life, personal watercraft lift, a davit and ladder. (location: 340 Willow Street, Southport CT 06890) This notice was dated June 18, 2010 (3 days after the HMC's June meeting) and stated that the comment period ended July 18, 2010 (two days before the HMC's July meeting).

July 14, 2010: E-mail from Peter Francis of the CT DEP informing Chairman von Conta, in response to her request, to the CT DEP to extend the comment period to allow the HMC to review this application, that he would allow the extension but would expect any comments the HMC has on this Notice to be sent within to him within 7 days following the meeting.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

Chairman von Conta indicated that she recently attended a meeting in Old Lyme regarding the CT DEP coastal permitting process. Chairman von Conta noted that there weren't many individuals present representing Harbor Management Commissions, and that she found the presentation very informative.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Review of CT DEP "Notice of Tentative Determination" to Approve Mr. Bell's Application For A Permit To Remove An Existing Timber Crib, Install Boat Lift, Personal Watercraft Lift, Davit and Ladder (340 Willow Street, Southport, CT):

Chairman von Conta advised the HMC that she had reviewed the drawings and spoken with Mr. Bell's engineer, Timothy DeBartolomeo, to confirm that the application has not been changed since it was previously provided by the applicant to the HMC. Chairman von Conta indicated that the tentative approval by the CT DEP appears to be consistent with the recommendations that the HMC had made in January of this year. Thomas Steinke indicated that the Shellfish Commission had also reviewed this matter, and had endorsed the tentative approval. Following discussion, Hugh Smith *moved*, and John Zygmant *seconded* to find the application consistent with the Harbor Management Plan and to reiterate the HMC's prior comments and

recommendations, and to add the recommended condition that the applicant's conduction of the proposed activities shall not unduly interfere with the normal operation of the harbor. Motion passed unanimously.

Mooring Report: None.

Sand Management Report: Geoff Steadman provided the HMC with a verbal report on the findings of Roberge Associates Coastal Engineers (RACE), following completion of the hydrographic survey conducted for the HMC by RACE in June/July of 2010. Drawings presenting the survey of the channel and shoreline area with cross sections of the channel were displayed by Mr. Steadman; the survey also included the water area near the jetty. Mr. Steadman indicated that in reviewing the topography, there is a depression on the east side of the channel near the jetty. Utilizing the information contained in the prior surveys of March 2005, December 2007, and the current survey, it is estimated by RACE that approximately 1,000 to 1,200 cubic yards of sand is accreting into the channel each year. The surveys clearly document a significant problem affecting the harbor. Chairman von Conta noted that she will contact the analyst at the CT DEP to discuss the findings. The HMC discussed information presented at the July 19th Connecticut Harbor Management Association dredging seminar, in which representatives of the states of Rhode Island and Massachusetts described how those states consider planning and implementation of harbor dredging projects as integral parts of their coastal management programs. Mr. Roberge of RACE will be invited to attend the HMC's August meeting to address any questions that the Commissioners may have concerning his findings. Upon a suggestion by Sandye Mann that the HMC clearly advise the CT DEP that the 75' dredged channel width in the vicinity of the jetty is being compromised as a result of the sand accretion, Geoff Steadman noted that the HMC may wish to consider amending the Harbor Management Plan to specify that such width should be maintained.

Lower Wharf Report – Mr. Steadman: Geoff Steadman provided the HMC with a presentation utilizing aerial photographs. Mr. Steadman noted that Chairman Mary von Conta had recently met with Devin Santa of RACE and representatives of the CT DEP on site to discuss the HMC's Lower Wharf improvement plans. The CT DEP representatives have informed Chairman von Conta and Mr. Steadman that the CT DEP will not allow the Town to dredge in a manner that would impact the area landward of the lowest predicted tide, and that new plans must be prepared which would avoid any impact on that area. Mr. Steadman noted that the CT DEP has identified the mudflat area near the existing boat launching ramp to be a valuable habitat, and as such, must be protected.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Request For An Allocation of Funds, Not to Exceed \$2,000.00 To Develop A Revised Plan For A Dredge Footprint And Other Matters Related To The Lower Wharf:

Following discussion, Sandye Mann *moved*, and E. Hewitt Gaynor *seconded* to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$2,000.00 for payment to Roberge Associates Coastal Engineers, for professional services to be rendered in connection with the completion of new plans regarding the dredge footprint included in the HMC's Lower Wharf improvement plans, following discussion and coordination with the CT DEP concerning any additional CT DEP requirements. Motion passed unanimously.

Report On The CHMA's "Dredging Seminar", Held on July 19, 2010:

It was noted that Chairman von Conta, Harbor Master Patrick Carroll, Geoff Steadman and Nelson North had attended the July 19th dredging seminar. Conservation Chairman Thomas Steinke noted that he had also attended this event, and that his perception is such that Connecticut will continue to have problems concerning dredging until the State has on its staff a facilitator, such as an ombudsman, to assist with the coordination of these activities. Some commissioners suggested that the CT DEP should be involved with the planning as well as the regulation of dredging activities. In response to inquiry by Harbor Master Carroll concerning emergency dredging that was performed at the Town's South Benson Marina, Robin Bimmel indicated that the Town has two existing State of Connecticut dredging permits for that facility, and had activated the same when it became necessary. Mr. Bimmel further indicated that the method of dredged material disposal is already set forth in the dredging permits, and that funding for this activity is included in the marina budget. Mr. Bimmel also advised the HMC that FEMA had visited the area following the recent storm which had resulted in a hazardous condition due to the narrowing of the channel; the Town of Fairfield may receive FEMA funds. Geoff Steadman advised the HMC that the cost to operate the USACOE dredge that may be suitable for maintaining the Southport Harbor entrance channel is significantly less than the cost that would be required to retain a private contractor. Hugh Smith noted that he has witnessed the USACOE dredge perform dredging activities; the process is completed in an expeditious manner.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Upon suggestion by Louis Schueler, Chairman von Conta indicated that she will forward a letter to Lara Donahue on behalf of the HMC, thanking her for the informative presentation regarding the Town of Westport's Sasco Brook watershed plan that she provided at the June meeting.
2. Following inquiry by Hugh Smith, Patrick Carroll indicated that replacement of the two speed buoys in the channel is being coordinated. John Zygmant recommended that the buoys have reflectors for night navigation.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the HMC, David Drabaski moved and Sandye Mann seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Gabriel