

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2010**

A meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) was held on Tuesday, October 19, 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; Louis Schueler; Hugh Smith; James P. Bradley; Nelson North; and John Zygmant. **ABSENT:** E. Hewitt Gaynor; Sandye Mann. **ALSO PRESENT:** Patrick Carroll, Harbor Master; Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Thomas Steinke, Conservation Director; Edward Crowley, Shellfish Commission; Jeff Engborg and Joel Kunkel, Pequot Yacht Club.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Chairman Mary von Conta.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2010 MEETING:

Hugh Smith *moved* and Louis Schueler *seconded* to approve the Minutes of September 21, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*

II. CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Mary von Conta reported the following correspondence:

September 30, 2010: From Harbor Master Carroll to Mr. William Bayles acknowledging receipt of his 2010 Mooring Waiting List application and “check” in the amount of \$50.00. (#131)

October 1, 2010: From Harbor Master Carroll to CFO Hiller enclosing a postal money order in the amount of \$50.00 for a 2010 Mooring Waiting List application filed by William Bayles. (# 131)

October 12, 2010: From Harbor Master Carroll to CFO Hiller a check in the amount of \$50.00, fee collected for the filing of a Mooring Waiting List application. (McArdle, #132)

October 12, 2010: From Harbor Master Carroll to Ms. Laurie McArdle acknowledging receipt of her 2010 Mooring Waiting List application and check in the amount of \$50.00. (#132)

September 23, 2010: From Town of Fairfield Purchasing Department to Chairman von Conta describing the “Award Resolution” awarded to the Pequot Yacht Club to perform mooring tackle maintenance and related repair work for moorings located in Southport Harbor.

September 27, 2010: From Deputy Chief Arthur J. Reid of the Fairfield Fire Department to Chairman von Conta stating the Fire Department’s support of “any efforts by the Harbor Commission to keep this access (Lower Wharf Ramp) open and available at all times.”

October 4, 2010: From Thomas J. Steinke, Conservation Director to Chairman von Conta: notes from a meeting of Mr. Steinke, Mrs. von Conta, Mr. Steadman and Mr. Crowley, Shellfish Commission Chair, regarding dredging the Lower Wharf area and possible mitigation in Southport Harbor.

Early in October, 2010: A copy of the Shellfish Commission Agenda for its October 13, 2010 meeting and a copy of the minutes of the Shellfish Commission's September 15, 2010 meeting.

October 8, 2010, from John Hilts to Fairfield Harbor Management Commission conveying a CT DEP-OLISP application from Barbara Castelli for the construction of a dock in Pine Creek, at 1624 Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield; it was noted that the location for this activity is not within HMC's jurisdiction.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

1. Chairman von Conta noted that she and Geoff Steadman had recently met with Shellfish Commission Chairman Crowley and Conservation Director Steinke concerning the HMC's plans for dredging in the vicinity of the lower wharf. Chairman von Conta indicated that it was a very productive meeting, and that she had subsequently received Mr. Steinke's meeting notes which she anticipates will be referred to in the future by the HMC.
2. CT Harbor Management Annual Dinner: Chairman von Conta advised the HMC that the CT Harbor Management Association's annual dinner is scheduled for November 9, 2010 in Branford, CT; a presentation will be provided by U.S. Coast Guard Commander Amy Beach concerning future safety issues facing Connecticut's ports and harbors. Registration forms were provided to the HMC.

Following inquiry by Harbor Master Carroll concerning the status of the CT DEP-OLISP application of Philip DiGennaro, Thomas Steinke indicated that the application had been denied by the CT DEP-OLISP, noting that the activities proposed were found to be inconsistent with state policies for protection of shellfish resources in the area and that the CT DEP-OLISP had recommended that Mr. DiGennaro pursue another application.

James Bradley arrived at 5:42 p.m.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Mooring Report: Harbormaster Carroll provided the HMC with a copy of proposed amendments to the HMC's Rules and Procedures for Mooring and Anchoring Vessels in Southport Harbor. Geoff Steadman indicated that the rules and procedures were adopted in 1995, and amended by the HMC in 2007. The HMC discussed the currently proposed changes as prepared by the HMC's Mooring Committee, which address utilization and sustained use of a mooring during boating season. Following review of the proposed changes, John Zygmant *moved*, and James Bradley *seconded* to approve the proposed amendments to the rules and procedures for adoption at a public hearing. *Motion passed unanimously.* The public hearing will be conducted at 4:30 p.m., prior to the scheduled November 16, 2010 meeting of the HMC.

Harbor Master Carroll reported that at the October meeting, it was discussed that issues concerning transient moorings would be reviewed by the Mooring Committee. Mr. Carroll indicated that it was decided by the Mooring Committee that no action was necessary at this time. Mr. Carroll also noted that he had received a letter from the individual who was provided temporary mooring thanking him for the assistance. Chairman von Conta, Joel Kunkel, Jeff Engborg and Harbor Master Carroll recently conducted an inspection of the harbor and determined that some additional mooring locations may be available; this is being reviewed. Chairman von Conta noted that Harbor Master Carroll is doing a wonderful job managing the harbor, and acknowledged his significant efforts.

Sand Management Report: Geoff Steadman provided the HMC with a copy of an October 15, 2010 letter and report that was sent to each of the participants of the March 4, 2010 meeting at the CT DEP-OLISP concerning sand management issues in the harbor. Mr. Steadman noted that the letter and report outline the issues documented in various surveys conducted by the HMC of conditions in the harbor. (Copies of the two most recent surveys were included as attachments to the October 15, 2010 letter and report.) These documents have not yet been forwarded to the political representatives. The HMC thanked Geoff Steadman for his efforts in this matter.

Lower Wharf Report: Chairman von Conta noted that she and Harbor Master Pat Carroll are continuing to obtain information from the various town departments, including fire, police, DPW, and Engineering concerning required specifications for access to the harbor via the boat launching ramp, including access for emergency services vessels. As requested by Chairman von Conta, Commissioner James Bradley provided the HMC with a draft memorandum which provided an outline of the background of the permitting issues at the lower wharf, as well as design and engineering considerations, and the overall requirements for achieving safe and adequate access to the harbor at this location. It was the consensus of the HMC that all members will continue to review the draft memorandum of Mr. Bradley so that they can be prepared to discuss and comment on the same at the November 16, 2010 meeting. It was also the consensus of the HMC that once finalized, this document will be included as supporting documentation with the application submitted to the CT DEP-OLISP. The HMC thanked Mr. Bradley for his significant efforts.

V. NEW BUSINESS: None noted

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: None noted

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, David Drabaski *moved* and John Zygmant *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Gabriel