

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2010**

A meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) was held on Tuesday, September 21, 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; James P. Bradley; Sandye Mann, and Nelson North. **ALSO PRESENT:** Patrick Carroll, Harbor Master; Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Richard White, Director of Public Works; Thomas Steinke, Conservation Director; Steven Klemenz and Thomas Rudkin, Country Club of Fairfield.

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m. by Chairman Mary von Conta. Sandye Mann was appointed to sit as a full member.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2010 MEETING:

Sandye Mann *moved* and David Drabaski *seconded* to approve the Minutes of August 17, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*

II. CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Mary von Conta reported the following correspondence:

Late in August: A copy of the bid document for Mooring Maintenance work in Southport Harbor posted by the Town of Fairfield Purchasing Department on the Town of Fairfield Website: sent by Mr. Ryan of the Purchasing Department to Chairman von Conta.

Early in September: Shellfish Commission meeting agenda for September 15, 2010 and meeting minutes of August 11, 2010.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

1. Chairman von Conta reported that she had attended a monthly Long Island Sound Assembly meeting last evening which consists of various representatives of the mayors and first selectmen of the coastal towns and appointees by the governor. This organization is charged with providing an annual report to legislators and providing a recommendation concerning issues related to the Long Island Sound. Brian Thompson, Director of the DEP's Office of Long Island Sound Programs (DEP OLISP) was also present at that meeting and presented information and addressed questions regarding DEP OLISP policies and activities. Several topics of interest of harbor management commissions were discussed with Mr. Thompson.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Mooring Report: Harbormaster Carroll reported that he had received a call last week from a boater who is currently on the waiting list for a mooring location; this individual was inquiring whether temporary mooring was available, as it was necessary to move his boat from its current location outside of Southport Harbor due to an upcoming boat show. Harbormaster Carroll advised the HMC that he had contacted some of the holders of vacant moorings and was able to accommodate the request for temporary mooring, and that proper documentation (vessel registration, etc.) was provided. Harbormaster Carroll further noted that the HMC's rules and procedures do not specify the duration for which a boat must utilize a permitted mooring location during the boating season; clarification concerning the definition of "transient" boaters is also needed in the rules and procedures. The Mooring Committee will review these matters at its next meeting, and the HMC will review the recommendations of the committee at the October HMC meeting. Chairman von Conta welcomed any suggestions and comments that the Commissioners may have concerning any other sections of the mooring rules and procedures that should be reviewed for possible revision.

James Bradley arrived at 4:46 p.m. during discussion on the following matter (Sandye Mann sat as an Alternate for the remainder of the meeting upon Mr. Bradley's arrival):

Sand Management Report: Geoff Steadman reported that he has prepared copies of the drawings presenting the results of the HMC's 2010 topographic and sand management surveys and suggested that a set of drawings be provided to each agency and organization represented at the March 4, 2010 meeting held at the DEP OLISP to discuss development of the HMC's Southport Harbor Sand Management Plan. The surveys were conducted in accordance with the agreements reached at that meeting. Mr. Steadman said that this information, which includes documentation of the annual accretion of over 1,000 cubic yards of the sand into the Harbor over the past three years, encroachment of the accreting sand into the 75' channel width dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 2005 and into the channel near the southern end of the jetty, will be provided to the agencies and organizations with a report summarizing the survey results. The HMC discussed whether it was possible to seek a renewable dredging permit, as well as potential locations for the disposal/beneficial reuse of dredged material from the Harbor channel. The HMC discussed three options for relocation of the dredged material, including: nearshore disposal utilizing the USACE's hopper dredge; beach nourishment of the adjoining beaches; and beneficial use/beach nourishment at an off-site location. It was the consensus of the Commission that the documentation concerning the ongoing sand accretion in the Harbor channel will be sent to the DEP OLISP, with copies sent to the various interested parties, including, the USACE; State of CT Dredge Coordinator; Country Club of Fairfield; Pequot Yacht Club; Shellfish Commission; and Conservation Commission. The HMC will give consideration to forwarding the same information to local and state elected officials and seek the support of those officials for this project needed to maintain continued beneficial use of the Harbor.

Lower Wharf Report: Geoff Steadman advised the HMC that subsequent to its August meeting wherein the members discussed various concerns for the lower wharf project, he had reviewed the matter with DPW Director, Richard White and provided Mr. White with copies of the HMC's plans for lower wharf improvements. Mr. White had advised him that the facilities the HMC is seeking to enhance are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. Mr. Steadman also said that Mr. White then met with former Town Engineer, Ronald Caton concerning this project and that Mr. Caton and Mr. White reviewed the plans and cross sections. Mr. White was also present at this HMC meeting, and advised the HMC that the DPW would not consider moving the south docks at the Town Boat Yard, as it would not be cost effective, but that he would support the project overall – for the HMC to dredge at a depth needed to accommodate the needs for that area. Mr. White recommended that the HMC consider offering off-site mitigation as part of its application to the DEP OLISP. Chairman von Conta noted that she is still seeking information from the Fire and Police Departments concerning what their needs are for the boat launch. Geoff Steadman will contact Laura Pulie of the Town Engineering Department to discuss plans she had drafted for ramp improvements. The HMC reiterated its concerns for maintaining beneficial use of the Lower Wharf and Town Boat Yard area; including long-term functional public use of the existing boat launching ramp and other public boating facilities, in order to have fully operational facilities for public access to Southport Harbor.

The HMC will continue to obtain information as needed, so that it may proceed with the most effective design plan and ramp improvements based on the HMC's original design for site improvements. Opportunities for off-site mitigation will also be explored.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Award Contract For The Mooring Maintenance Work In Southport Harbor: Chairman von Conta noted that the Pequot Yacht Club was the sole bidder with regard to the RFP issued by the Town of Fairfield Purchasing Department for the mooring maintenance contract in Southport Harbor. John Zygmant *moved* and Louis Schueler *seconded* to approve the mooring maintenance contract to the successful bidder, Pequot Yacht Club. **In Favor:** John Zygmant, Louis Schueler; David Drabaski. **Opposed:** None. **Abstention:** E. Hewitt Gaynor; Hugh Smith; Mary von Conta; James P. Bradley. *Motion carries 3-0 with four abstentions.*

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT: None noted

At the request of Harbormaster Carroll, the Commission returned to discussion concerning matters for review by the Mooring Committee: Following inquiry by Harbormaster Carroll, Geoff Steadman confirmed that the HMC can make revisions to the HMC's Rules and Procedures for Mooring and Anchoring Vessels following proper notice and a public hearing. Harbormaster Carroll noted that he would like the Mooring Committee to meet as soon as possible so that it can review the two items he had suggested above (definition of "transient" boaters, and establishment of requirements for the duration of time that a boat must utilize a mooring location during the boating season). The Mooring Committee will make a recommendation to the HMC at the HMC's October meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, David Drabaski *moved* and John Zygmant *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Gabriel

DRAFT