

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2012**

A meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) was held on Tuesday November 20, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. in the SECOND FLOOR Conference Room, the Honorable John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary von Conta, Chairman; Benjamin Baker, Louis Schueler, Nelson North, John Zygmant, and Norman Marsilius. **ABSENT:** James Harman, Sandye Mann, Hugh Smith.

ALSO PRESENT: Geoff Steadman, HMC Consultant; Patrick Carroll, Harbor Master; Joel Kunkel and Jeffrey Engborg, Pequot Yacht Club; Edward Mileti and Steven Klemenz, Country Club of Fairfield, Thomas Steinke, Fairfield Conservation Department.

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chairman Mary von Conta.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2012 MEETING:

Nelson North moved and Benjamin Baker seconded to approve the Minutes of October 16, 2012, as written. Motion passed unanimously.

II. CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Mary von Conta reported the following correspondence:

October 31, 2012: From Peter Francis of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Office of Long Island Sound Programs (DEEP OLISP) to Coast Stakeholders, regarding "Hurricane Recovery: Regulatory Fact Sheet, Authorizations, and Contacts (CT DEEP OLSIP)".

November 5, 2012: From Edward Jones, representing the Fairfield Shellfish Commission (FSC), to Tonia Selmeski, DEEP OLISP analyst, informing Ms. Selmeski that at its October 10, 2012 meeting the FSC unanimously voted to recommend approval of the HMC's Permit Application #200400010-TS (work to be done at the Lower Wharf and the Town of Fairfield Boat Yard) with the conditional proposal to spread oyster shell cultch post dredging to provide mitigation for any loss of shellfish habitat within the project area.

Early in November: Copies of the Shellfish Commission's Agenda for its November 14, 2012 Commission Meeting and draft minutes from its October 10, 2012 meeting.

November 16, 2012: From Brian Thompson, DEEP OLISP Director, a notice of tentative determination to approve an application to conduct work at 1871 Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield. (This is outside the HMC's area of Jurisdiction).

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Lower Wharf Report: Chairman von Conta reported that she had discussed with Robin Bimmel of the Public Works Department that two of the benches at the Lower Wharf had been washed

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away during Hurricane Sandy but that these benches have since been located and will be reinstalled in the spring. It was also reported that the rest rooms at the Town Boat Yard were badly damaged during the storm.

Mr. Steadman reported that he has been informed by Roberge Associates Coastal Engineers (RACE) that the soil borings in the area of the HMC's planned community sailing dock should be conducted within the next two weeks. Following completion of this work, RACE will prepare the final cost estimates for implementation of the HMC's Lower Wharf project.

Mr. Steadman presented a short update on the status of the shellfish habitat assessment report being prepared by the Connecticut Bureau of Aquaculture. That report will summarize the results of the assessment conducted by the bureau for the HMC of the HMC's planned dredging project area. That assessment found no significant populations of shellfish in the proposed dredging project area and determined that the area to be dredged does not contain valuable shellfish habitat. Mr. Steadman stated that implementation of the Lower Wharf project may be able to begin next fall. In response to a question from Mr. North, Mr. Steadman said he would get an estimate of how long it will take to complete the entire project.

Mooring Report: Mr. Marsilius reported that the Mooring Committee recently met with Greg Carroll of the Police Department's Marine Unit to discuss the Marine Unit's policy for the 2013 boating season regarding enforcement of the state boat registration requirements.

It was reported that there was damage to the Country Club of Fairfield's seawall during Hurricane Sandy.

A discussion was held concerning the deadlines for removing moorings in the harbor at the close of the boating season.

The Harbor Master reported that there may be two mooring locations available in the spring. People on the waiting list will be notified.

Chairman von Conta reported that the Pequot Yacht Club north anchorage dredging project has not started yet and is expected to start in December.

Sand Management Report: Chairman von Conta distributed a draft report "Southport Harbor Sand Management Project Status Report" and she and Mr. Steadman reviewed the report and a map of the sand management areas. (The report and map were distributed to all present.) Mr. Steadman reported that based on a visual inspection that it appears that significantly more sand has been deposited on the sand bar and in the harbor channel by Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Steadman reviewed the options being considered by the HMC for removing sand from the channel and the vicinity of the jetty for the purpose of maintaining safe navigation. He reported that the Public Works Department is currently assessing options for restoring Town beaches damaged by Hurricane Sandy and that it may be possible to use sand excavated from the channel and jetty vicinity to help restore those Town beaches. The Town is currently pursuing the possibility of obtaining post-disaster funds from FEMA to help restore the Town beaches and it is possible that some of those funds may be used to cover the expenses for excavating sand from channel and

jetty vicinity. Mr. Steadman reported that he will continue to coordinate this matter with the Public Works Department and other agencies. Chairman von Conta reported that she and Mr. Steadman and Mr. Santa from RACE attended a meeting with representatives of the Country Club of Fairfield to discuss this matter and that the club appears to be supportive of this excavation project as long as proper protocols are in place to protect the club's interests. Mr. Steadman reported that under the best of circumstances the Public Works Department would hope to excavate this sand during the early part of 2013.

Chairman von Conta noted that the major issue is continued safe navigation in the channel in Southport Harbor and unless this issue is addressed, the situation will continue to worsen as sand continues to be washed over the jetty and into the channel.

Review the "Remedial Action Plan For Lead Impacted River Sediments/River Study Areas I-V/The Former Exide Battery Facility Project/2160 Boston Post Road, Fairfield, CT:

Chairman von Conta reported that there will be a public meeting, convened by the DT DEEP, on January 10, 2013 at 7 pm at Fairfield Ludlowe High School where the project will be presented to the public. Chairman von Conta stated that the HMC will have a discussion at the January meeting about what transpired at the public meeting and the HMC will draft a letter containing HMC comments after the January HMC meeting.

Review the DEEP Consultation Package related to a proposed application submitted by the Country Club of Fairfield to retain and maintain an existing earth berm and lagoon slope at 936 Sasco Hill Road, Fairfield, CT: No additional action taken this evening.

Review the Application for a Certificate of Wetlands Conformance for Targeted Soil Excavation Tide Mill, LLC, 2425 Post Road, Southport, CT-LEA, Comm. No. 85TM201:

Chairman von Conta reported that a certificate has been issued so this item can now be removed from the HMC agenda.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of Status of Commissioners' terms in office

Chairman von Conta reviewed the end date of every Commissioner's term for informational purposes.

2. Selection of Officers for 2013 (review and discussion of nominating process)

Chairman von Conta asked the Commissioners for their thoughts concerning the process to be used for nominating officers and it was the consensus of the HMC that nominations will be accepted from the floor at the December meeting of the HMC.

3. Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2013

Chairman von Conta distributed a list of meeting dates for 2013 and noted that the list would be voted on at the December HMC meeting.

4. 2013-2014 HMC Budget – Review and Discussion

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Chairman von Conta distributed the proposed budget and reviewed it with the HMC. Chairman von Conta noted that this is a lift year for moorings and that will be an added expense but that cost is not in the HMC Operating budget but rather is paid for by the mooring maintenance charges. Chairman von Conta reported that she will submit the budget to the Town by November 30, 2012. Anyone with comments and/or questions should contact her prior to November 30, 2012.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT: None noted

V. ADJOURNMENT: