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MICHAEL PENSIERO, ALTERNATE

**CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Minutes of April 21, 2015

DRAFT

A Scheduled Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at the Stamford Government Center – Training Room, 6th Floor.

Called to order at 6:36 p.m., Chairman Ortelli presiding. The video camera was not working, therefore only audio was recorded.

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Dr. Damian Ortelli; Robert Karp; Paul Adelberg; Jeffery Saunders; Robert J. Strada; Ray Redniss; Griffith Trow; Steven Loeb, Alternate

Staff: Frank Fedeli, COS; Eric Knott, Harbor Master; Sgt. Bob Monck, Stamford Police Dept.; Geoff Steadman, Consultant

Absent: Michael Pensiero, Alternate, Commissioner; Sean Elumba, Marina Supervisor

1) Review and Approval of March 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Adelberg moved to approve minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Redniss.

Approved Unanimously

2) Chairman's Report: D. Ortelli

- a) Discussion of the Harbor Pollution letter authored by Harbor Master Knott and recently sent to the Board of Reps.
- b) Brief discussion on the status of the Commission's recommendation for Deputy Harbor Master
- c) Reported on the joint session held with ZB and PB finalizing the consultant's scope of work for evaluating BLT's plans to relocate the former BYH Boatyard.

3) Staff Reports:

a) Financial – Frank Fedeli

- Commented on the budget process for fiscal year 2015-16. He will set up a time for Chairman Ortelli and him to meet with the co-chairs of the BOR's Fiscal Committee.

b) Harbor Master – E. Knott

See attachment for HM's report.

4) Committee Reports:

Safety – R. Strada. No meeting. Consultant Steadman drafted a letter to Mayor Martin, re: Boating Safety in the Stamford Harbor.

Commissioner Redniss moved to accept letter with modifications.

Seconded by Commissioner Adelberg.

Approved Unanimously

Applications – G. Trow. Commissioner Trow brought forward the following applications discussed at the committee's meeting on 4/6/2015.

- 134 Davenport Drive, COP Application, owner repaired existing seawall as result of Hurricane Sandy. It was raised by 2 feet without permits. The owner paid a \$1,500.00 penalty which went to a Supplemental Environmental Project of DEEP's choosing.

Following discussion and comments by Consultant Steadman:

Commissioner Trow moved for Commission support of the application per comments and findings as drafted by Steadman.

Seconded by Commissioner Karp.

Approved Unanimously

Ray Redniss and Jeffrey Saunders recuse themselves from the following application. Commission Loeb will be voting.

- Application from Southfield Property by LLC, to undertake various projects at the Davenport Landing Site, 28 Southfield Avenue and request for Commission sign off of an accompanying DEEP Permit Consultation Form.

Consultant Steadman presented the Committee's findings that the application be found inconsistent with the HM Plan and that the Commission need not respond to the DEEP permit form as requested.

Commissioner Trow made a motion these findings be adopted by the Commission.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Strada. Motion approved unanimously.

- Application 215-11 – Stamford Zoning Board, Text change. Medical Marijuana dispensaries and production facilities. Matter discussed as being outside Commission's purview.

Commissioner Trow moved that the Commission has no opinion or comment on this application.

Seconded by Commissioner Karp.

Approved Unanimously

Planning/Moorings – S. Loeb. No meeting, no report.

Harbor Management Plan Review – Ray Redniss. No meeting, no report.

5) Old Business:

- a) Consultant Steadman updated the Commission on recent legislative action in the state legislature regarding the newly created Port Authority.
- b) Commission discussed its Safe Boating and Harbor Pamphlet for the 2015 season. 2000 to be ordered for dissemination.

6) New Business:

- a) None

7) Public Participation – The following addressed the Commission:

Randy Dinter, Save Our Boatyard – expressed concerns of silt build up in the northern portion of the West Branch, largely as result of the Mill River Dam having been removed.

Carolyn Goldenberg, Save Our Boatyard – Announced that a fund has been started to help pay for expenses of a boater friend who was severely burned in an accidental explosion while working on his boat.

8) Next scheduled Commission meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., 6th Floor Training Room.

Upon motion by Commissioner Redniss, seconded by Commissioner Adelberg, Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Robert M. Karp

Secretary/Treasurer

April 22, 2015

Cc: Commissioners; David Martin, Mayor; Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations; Board of Representatives; Town Clerks Office

Stamford Harbor Master's Report 04/21/2015

- As of this morning (4/21/2015) mooring records indicate the following status;
 - a. 19 mooring renewal applications fully paid and approved
 - b. 29 mooring renewals and applications under review but not yet approved
 - c. 7 mooring applications rejected
 - d. 67 Expired mooring permits, no renewal received

This presently gives us 48 active moorings. I can see several reasons for the drop in moorings;

- a. Late application for renewal
- b. Intent to not renew as previous enforcement action was very limited
- c. Reduction in recreational boating activity in the harbor

The online mooring system is causing issues for applicants and delaying the processing of some applications. At least one record is showing both 'paid in full' and 'payment overdue'. It is my opinion that future applications and payment for mooring permits should be handled the same as the city marina docks. This would still allow review and approval by the SHM.

- On 3/18/2015 at about 12:30 I received a report of a swim dock which had broken free of its mooring and was aground in the harbor along Shippan Avenue. I identified and contacted the owner and attended the scene with Sgt. Monck. The dock was intact and hard aground on the beach. It was secured pending arrival of contractors. It was clear the chain had worn through and completely new tackle will be required before reinstallation.



- On 3/26 I had a long conversation with John Hakker, Greater New York Marine Towing and Transportation (he called me). They will be starting to run the gravel barges into O&G in early April in 4x barge tows and his enquiry concerned the limitations on the use of the staging buoy in the harbor.

A concern expressed was that some of the barges are larger (length and beam) than previously used.. After discussion, we agreed that an appropriate way to stage the barges (on the buoy) might be abeam of each other rather than the usual 2x2 formation. I also highlighted the need for his crews to pay constant attention to the condition of the working and mooring lines in use and the subject of 2 incidents last year involving line breaks in the harbor were discussed.

I would ask that anybody seeing anything 'unusual' or problematic with tugs and barges in the harbor contact either myself or Sgt. Bob Monck and provide time/date stamped photographs if possible. This tug operator has not been one of the harbor's 'favorites' over the past couple of years, but they have reached out to us, so let's see if we can get them to the top of the 'Friends of Stamford Harbor' table.

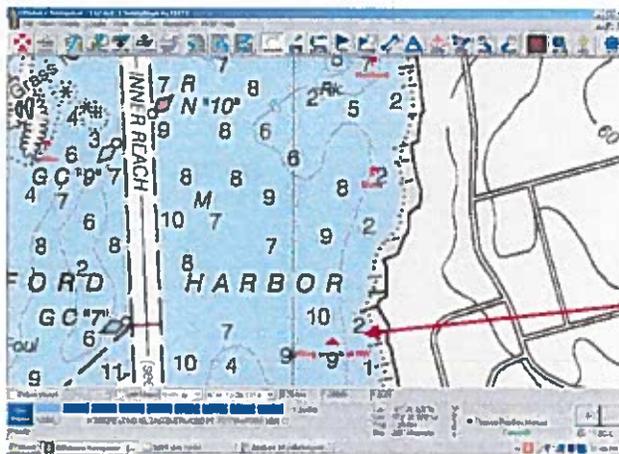
- On April 9th, at the request of Captain Bernie Weiss and the Mayor, I attended a met with them to discuss the practical operation of proposed BLT plans for development of marine facilities within the harbor. A second meeting was held earlier today (21st) which Commissioner Loeb also attended. Discussions were useful on both sides.
- On April 19th, I did a sweep of the harbor to locate and assess the current situation with pollution and debris within the harbor. Much of it has moved but remains within the harbor, trapped against various structure. It

Stamford Harbor Master's Report 04/21/2015

does not appear that a safe and effective cleanup can be mounted from shoreside, and I have been invited to attend the BOR Public Health and Safety Committee on Thursday 23rd where the matter is to be further discussed possible responses explored.

- During the sweep of the harbor a new obstruction was located on the east side of the harbor some distance south of SYC about 100 yards off the beach line in position
41°01.292N
073 31.953W

It appears to be a homeless piling that is now stuck in the bottom at a 45° angle and is only just visible at high tide. The attached chart extract shows the position.



- The Coast Guard at Eaton's Neck and the ACOE now have me on their circulation list and are in frequent contact regarding practical matters within the harbor including ice reports, hurricane barrier workings (including permission and technical discussions for a temporary mooring for some upcoming diving work) and safety circulations regarding missing boaters and safety equipment recalls. These are being circulated onwards as appropriate.
- I am still awaiting the 2015 mooring permit stickers but there has been a technical issue regarding their supply. Frank Fedeli is trying to expedite their delivery.
- Outstanding Harbor Master expenses total \$183.57 (since 10/30/2014). A further amount of \$22.30 (SHM cell) will soon need to be submitted and fuel (est. \$50-100) and 2-stroke oil (est. \$120) will have to be purchased in 4-6 weeks.) I am happy to continue with the current purchasing arrangements with the commission's approval.

Respectfully submitted
Eric Knott, Harbor Master