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MICHAEL PENSIERO, ALTERNATE

CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of March 15, 2016

DRAFT

A regularly scheduled meeting was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at the Stamford Government Center – Training Room, 6th Floor.

Called to order at 6:31 p.m., Chairman Ortelli presiding.

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Dr. Damian Ortelli; Paul Adelberg; Robert Karp; Ray Redniss; Jeffrey Saunders; Griffith Trow; and Michael Pensiero

Staff: Sgt. Bob Monck, Stamford Police Dept.; Eric Knott, Harbor Master; Yale Greenman, Deputy Harbor Master; Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Frank Fedeli, COS; and Maria Vazquez-Goncalves, Administrative Support

Absent: Commissioner Robert J. Strada; Alternate Steven Loeb; and Sean Elumba, Marina Supervisor

1) Review and Approval of February 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Adelberg moved to approve February 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Redniss

Approved Unanimously

2) Chairman's Report: D. Ortelli.

- a) On March 2, 2016 Mayor Martin zeroed out the HMC's operating budget for fiscal year 2016-17. The mayor's action was taken without any prior discussion or consultation with the Commission. A letter by the Commission was sent inviting the Mayor to discuss this matter at today's meeting. Due to a family conflict the Mayor was unable to attend but will be able to do so at the Commission's April 19 monthly meeting.
- b) Due to manpower shortages and a 25% cut in its next year's budget, Stamford Marine Police will be functioning with 3 officers, not 4, according to Sgt. Monck. The reduction will mean fewer days of weekly marine police patrols. Revised patrol schedules take effect in April.
- c) Discussed Cove Island Dredge Plans. The Land Use Bureau has submitted a Harbor Information Form so the city can be eligible for Army Corp of Engineers sediment testing, a prerequisite to getting a dredging plan approved and funded. Process could take 4 to 7 years due to lengthy backlog of dredging applications statewide.

6) New Business: (agenda sequence revision)

a. Coast Guard Lieutenant Martin Betts introduced himself as the liaison from Sector NY. The Sector is looking to enhance closer operational ties with the coastal communities in its jurisdiction, including Stamford. Its initial focus is on improving the efficiency and reliability of the various aids to navigation (ATON) and Stamford's coastal waterways are its first effort along the CT shoreline. The Commission and Harbormaster will assist in setting up a meeting between the Coast Guard and all stake holders. The Commission's Safety Committee is scheduled to meet on 4/11/16 at which time such a meeting could take place. Time and location to be determined.

b. Representatives from the Hemlock Oyster Company introduced themselves to the Commission. Hemlock operates a shellfish farm approx. one-half mile off Shippan Point. It was noted that the city is looking to reactivate Stamford's defunct Shellfish Commission.

3) Committee Reports:

- **Safety – R. Strada.** Commissioner Pensiero highlighted two items discussed during its meeting on February 25, 2016. (See attached Minutes.) Grant money is being sought to place a security camera in the Cummings Beach area. A revised Hurricane Safety Plan has been submitted to and accepted by the Coast Guard. The plan, with considerable input from Harbormaster Knott, no longer mandates that anchored or moored vessels seeking safe harbor inside the moveable hurricane barrier need be manned.
- **Applications Review – G. Trow.** Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. (See attached Minutes.) Discussion of OLISP Application 1535-55-04 by City of Stamford/Mill River Restoration and Linear Park. Committee Chair Trow summarized the proposal, now in pre-application, to extend the park, bike paths, walk ways, and add a boardwalk to an area just north of where the dam formerly existed. Commission discussion was generally favorable. However, concerns were voiced over the rapid buildup of sediment at the mouth of the Mill River where it flows into the West Branch. The committee found no objections to this pre-app but reserved its right to review it when it comes in for final review. Consultant Steadman added comments similar to ones stipulated by the Commission for a previous MR Park application last year.

Commissioner Trow made a motion to accept the committee’s recommendations encompassing Consultant Steadman’s comments on the Consultation Form.

Seconded by Commissioner Redniss

Approved Unanimously

- **Planning/Moorings – R. Redniss.** Joint meeting was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 with the Application Review Committee. (See attached Minutes.) Purpose was to discuss expanding fees to other harbor users, such as commercial vessels and boat slips. However, detailed discussion of fees was pre-empted by discussion of the unexpected news that the Commission’s operating account was defunded by the Mayor. In response, the joint Committee voted to send a letter to the Mayor pointing out the negative implications of being defunded and inviting him to attend the Commission’s meeting on 3/15/2016 to discuss his action. Further discussion on the budget ensued by the Commission. It was noted that payment of administrative expenses from the Commission’s revenue account commences as of July 1, 2016. A Commission delegation consisting of Messrs. Ortelli, Redniss and Fedeli will meet with City OPM Director Jay Fountain later this week to discuss next steps and how best the Commission can go forward in terms of its funding needs, both administratively and programmatically.

Commissioner Trow stated the general public should be informed of what has transpired with the Commission’s budget. He proposed submitting the aforementioned letter as an Op-Ed piece for publication in the Advocate.

Commissioner Saunders made a motion to submit the letter to the newspaper for publication in the editorial section.

Seconded by Commissioner Trow

Approved Unanimously

- **Harbor Management Plan Review – R. Redniss.** No meeting, no report.

4) Staff Reports:

a) **Financial – Frank Fedeli**

Mr. Fedeli led continued discussion on the Commission’s new budgetary landscape. He relayed Budget Director Jay Fountain’s assurances that his office would support an enhanced fee structure and lobby the BOR for its adoption; and that if there were any funding shortfalls for administrative expenses, OPM would assist in getting them covered by the BOF and the BOR. Discussion also ensued on the rationale for building up the revenue account, principally to fund maintenance and improvement initiatives in and along Stamford’s tidal waterways.

b) **Harbor Master – E. Knott’s (See attachment for report.)**

Dolphin Yacht Service/Dolphin Inc. has applied to become an approved mooring service provider for deploying and servicing moorings in Stamford Harbor. Captain Knott vetted the application and recommended approval. **Commissioner Redniss made a motion to approve Dolphin Yacht Service/Dolphin Inc. as a mooring service provider.**

Seconded by Commissioner Adelberg

Approved Unanimously

Commissioner Karp raised the issue of requiring contractors performing work for the SHMC - including mooring service operators – to have liability and workers comp insurance certificates holding the COS harmless. Karp will confer with the city Risk Manager on this matter and report back.

5) Old Business:

- a) **Update on dredging ops at Brewers YHE Marina/South:** In response to last month's complaint that mounds of dredged material were pushed into the Downs Ave. Lagoon east and north of the marina, Commissioner Redniss reported that a post dredging survey was conducted by RACE, the project consultant. The survey turned up dredging issues which needed to be rectified. In recent days, the dredger was observed to be back on site purportedly remedying the situation.
- b) Commissioner Redniss reported on a recent EPA public hearing in Hartford regarding dredged material being disposed in L. I. Sound at two existing dump sites. The Army Core of Engineers presented extensive documentation claiming no environmental deterioration at these sites. Testimony was overwhelmingly in favor of allowing the dumping to continue at these two locations. NY officials and others have raised environmental concerns and are lobbying to have dredged material disposed at appropriate sites on land.
- c) A committee was established to take up the matter of fees. Comprised of Commissioners Saunders, Loeb, Redniss and Pensiero, the committee is scheduled to meet 3/28/2016 at 6:30pm.

6) New Business: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

7) Public Participation:

- Randy Dinter recited some Stamford Harbor history concluding that in his opinion the harbor has been in decline over the past 10 to 15 years.
- Maureen Boylan commented on the budget, a potential SOB fundraiser for the HMC, and the boatyard situation.

8) Next scheduled Commission meeting is Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Upon motion by Commissioner Adelberg and seconded by Commissioner Karp, Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Robert M. Karp
Secretary/Treasurer
March 16, 2016

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

STAMFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

SAFETY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 25, 2016

10TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

IN ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

ROBERT STRADA

Mike PENSIERO

JEFF SAUNDERS

STAFF

GEOFF STEADMAN

SGT. ROBERT MONCK

ERIC KNOTT

YALE GREENMAN

THE MEETING BEGAN AT 6:30 PM

- 1) THE STATUS OF THE CAMERAS.
COMMISSIONER STRADA AND PENSIERO DISCUSSED THE NEW GRANT MONEY FOR MORE CAMERAS. PENSIERO MENTIONED ADVANCED SECURITY TECHNOLOGY ESTIMATE FOR THE CAMERA \$7,000.00 AND LOCATION CUMMINGS.
- 2) THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED THE HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PLAN UTILIZING THE EMERGENCY ANCHORAGE AREA IN THE EAST BRANCH OF STAMFORD HARBOR. HARBORMASTER KNOTT DISCUSSED THE FINAL DRAFT THAT COMMISSIONER ORTELLI SENT TO THE COASTGUARD FOR APPROVAL. THEY REVIEWED AND UPDATED THAT DOCUMENTS VERBAGE. PER COMMITTEE, THE HARBORMASTER WILL AMEND IT AND READY TO SUBMIT TO THE SHMC FOR APPROVAL.
- 3) THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED ONE BARGE AT A TIME ON THE INNER HARBOR.
- 4) DISCUSSED SHMC PAMPHLETS WHEN THEY WILL GET DISTRIBUTED.
- 5) THE NEXT SCHEDULE MEETING IS MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 AT 6:30 P.M.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:20 P.M.

SUBMITTED BY:
MARIA VAZQUEZ-GONCALVES
FEBRUARY 26, 2016

Stamford Harbor Management Commission - Applications Review Committee Minutes Draft

Date: March 8, 2016
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06901
Operations New Conference Room 10th Floor

Roll Call: In Attendance were: Committee Chairman Griffith Trow; Committee members Commissioners Robert Karp, Paul Adelberg, Mike Pensiero and Commission Chairman Damian Ortelli; Commissioners Vice Chairman Ray Redniss; Commissioner Steve Loeb; Harbor Master Eric Knott, Consultant Geoff Steadman, Staff Frank Fedeli and OSS Maria Vazquez-Goncalves.

1. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Trow at 5:30 p.m.
2. It was noted there was a mistake on the agenda, the minutes to approve were not February 16, 2016, they were January 4, 2016 Meeting Draft Minutes. Chairman Trow defer action on approving the minutes at a later time to review them.

**Karp moved to defer action on approving the January 4, 2016 Meeting Minutes at a later time.
Seconded by Ortelli Unanimously Approved**

3. Discussion of OLISP Application 1535-55-04 by City of Stamford for Mill River Restoration and Linear Park. Chairman Trow gave a summary of the proposal to create a linear park just above the dam all the way to the sound. (Also, received today was a document dated March 3, 2016 from EPB with concerns with easements that were procured from property owners adjoining the Rippowam Mill River and those easements were needed by the City to have the walking paths and other structures along the water.) This Application is installing pathways along the river, a boardwalk, and fishing stations along the river. Consultant Steadman referred to a response a year ago for this park location, dated March 17, 2015, where the Commission found that the proposal was consistent provided the applicant employ all appropriate best management practices during construction to avoid any significant adverse impacts on environmental quality and water quality in the HM area, standard comment. Second, provided the Stamford Engineering Department determines that the proposed project will not cause any significant adverse stormwater impacts in the Mill River, including any increase sedimentation. Other comments and concerns about the potential down stream effects of the Mill River Restoration project on down stream conditions in the west branch of Stamford Harbor, included but not limited to the potential effect of increase sedimentation rate in the federal navigation channel. Also, Harbor Management Plan supports a well design facilities and amenities to increase public use and enjoyment of the Stamford Harbor Mgmt Area in the Mill River Park. Consultant Steadman commented that this application is a preliminary proposal and requesting a Consultation Form to be completed. The Commission's policy has been with respect to these preliminary submittals, it would not state if it is consistent or non-consistent with the HMP. The Commission would state it has no objection to move forward with an Application with DEEP, and reserves its right to review it in a final matter when it goes out to notice. Discussion of proposal and Consultation Form.

**Karp made a motion to recommend to the Commission Consultant Steadman's comments and recommendations above on the preliminary proposal.
Seconded by Adelberg. Unanimously Approved**

Continuation of Agenda Item #2. Review of January 4, 2016 Meeting draft minutes.

**Karp moved to approve the January 4, 2016 Meeting Minutes with amendments.
Seconded by Pensiero Unanimously Approved**

4. The next scheduled meeting is on Monday, April 4, 2016.

Commissioner Adelberg made a motion to adjourn at 5:51 p.m.

Seconded by Karp

Approved Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted by

Maria Vazquez-Goncalves

March 10, 2016

Stamford Harbor Management Commission – Joint Applications Review Committee & Mooring/Long Range
Plan Committee Minutes Draft

Date: March 8, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06901
Operations New Conference Room 10th Floor

Roll Call: In Attendance were: Committee Chairman Griffith Trow; Committee members Commissioners Robert Karp, Paul Adelberg, Mike Pensiero and Commission Chairman Damian Ortelli; Commissioners Vice Chairman Ray Redniss; Commissioner Steve Loeb; Harbor Master Eric Knott, Consultant Geoff Steadman, Staff Frank Fedeli and OSS Maria Vazquez-Goncalves.

1. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Trow at 6:00 p.m.
2. Discussion of Mooring Fees and possibility of new fees for harbor users including slip holders, ramp usage, and applications. In the interim word has come from the Mayor's assistant, and given to believe by Mr. Fedeli that the Mayor's Budget will not include any money for the Harbor Commission, which pays for the Administrative and Consultant costs. Mr. Fedeli discussed his conversation with Jay Fountain stating the Mayor's comments that the Harbor Commission Revenue account can maintain their operating account. Therefore, he felt they were self-sustaining and zero the budget for the Harbor Commission. Extensive discussion followed on the Harbor Management Commission Budget issues, legal issues, Fee's and how to move forward. Discussion of sending a letter to the Mayor re: Budget and inviting him to the next meeting.

Adelberg made a motion to send a letter to Mayor Martin regarding the Harbor Management Commission Budget.

Seconded by Karp

Unanimously Approved

Commissioner Adelberg made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.

Seconded by Redniss

Approved Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted by
Maria Vazquez-Goncalves
March 15, 2016

Stamford Harbor Master's Report 03/15/2016

Moorings.

- Renewals are now coming in. Mooring status (as of 3/15/2016);
 - Approved - 55 (incl. 2x new permittees)
 - Awaiting inspection - 06
 - Renewal not yet received - 31
 - Not being renewed - 03 (incl. 1x transfer)
- Buchanan Marine were amongst the first to pay fees this year, and the invoice has gone out to Stamford YC.
- 4 reminder e-mails have been sent to each permit holder that has not yet applied for renewal.
- I am attaching a copy of the 'violation' notices for errant moorings which I failed to attach to last month's report.

Application to become Mooring Service Provider

- Dolphin Yacht Service/Dolphin llc. has applied to become an approved mooring service provider to enable them to deploy and service moorings in Stamford Harbor. I have details and have made some enquiries of their operation. I have found nothing that indicates it would be inappropriate for them to be approved.

Docks adrift in harbor.

- On February 18th, the 'Young Mariner' docks in the West Branch were damaged and broken adrift due to high winds. A section in excess of 40' was eventually corralled and secured by Hansen Marine, a local marine contractor, with the assistance of the Marine Police and Deputy Harbor Master.

Barges adrift.

- On February 25th I received a report from SYC dock master of a laden barge having broken free from the mooring and now aground on Jack Island. I contacted Buchanan Marine who tasked their nearest tug *Mr. T* which attended from the East River NY, in the vicinity of the Whitestone Bridge. There were no immediately available Harbor Master or Marine Police units available, but the Deputy Harbor Master attended from home and the Marine Police Supervisor also attended from off-duty. A local commercial fishing vessel, *Kittyhawk* also attended and assisted in the eventual recovery of the barge. The initial cause seems to have been mooring lines between this and another barge chaffing through in storm force winds whilst attached to the Nurse Buoy. There was no injury, pollution or damage as a result of this incident but it does highlight the potential dangers of not having resources immediately available year round in the harbor.

Commercial fishing activity

- There have been recent incidents of commercial oyster boats working in areas that they should not, and causing damage (to winterized moorings). Two fleets of boats have been involved, one from Norwalk, and the second was local to the harbor. Hopefully an agreement has been brokered between the parties by myself, Sgt. Monck and Ray Redniss who has been working further on this and may have more detail.

Fireworks display.

- I have been working with the Marine Police, the Fire Marshall and other in City government with regards to marine safety aspects of this year's events. There were concerns at last year's event concerning the towing vessel engaged in moving the fireworks barge. This matter is ongoing but there seems to be a reluctance in some quarters to communicate and address the potential issue. I will keep the commission updated.

Hurricane plan.

- I have been working with the safety committee to revise and update the hurricane plan and the committee report will detail this further.

Stamford Harbor Master's Report 03/15/2016

Police Harbor Unit

- As a result of the recent city budget, the Police harbor unit has had a 25% reduction of assigned personnel for the coming season. (Sgt. Monck may have further details). As commissioners become aware of any particular coverage needs for events or other circumstances, please contact Sgt. Monck (or myself) so that appropriate presence on the water case be arranged if possible.

Harbor Commission boat.

- During the barge recovery evolution, extreme difficulty was had engaging ahead clutch on the engine. A local marine engineer attended and found that the control linkages has slipped *w - a - y* out of adjustment. This was rectified along with a couple of related issues. The boat remains fully in-service and available for use but will require the gearbox to be drained of oil, flushed and refilled. We will do this soon during a spring short-haul for cleaning and bottom paint. (Estimated cost \$950.00 US).
- I request authorization from the commission to carry out this essential maintenance work on the boat.

Garbage and effluent

- Debris continues to accumulate in the harbor. It is particularly bad at the Ponus YC ramp and Czescik Marina, which was not helped by the recent 'discharge' from the water treatment plant following recent heavy rains.
- For those that are not already aware, there was also a recent (3/8/2016) release of approximately 30 gallons of raw untreated sewage in the area of 315 Ocean Drive West, Shippan.
- The Stamford Advocate has recently run several short articles and letters regarding the build-up and the city's apparent unwillingness to address the matter. With the proposed budget cuts, the Commission may not presently have the resources to continue to consider the clean-up' boat, and it would appear that the city has no intention of so doing either.

Harbor activity

- With the summer-like weather, harbor activity can be expected to increase in the coming weeks. With the recent high winds and resulting damage *we know about*, it is probable that someone will hit debris that we do *not know of*. If anyone becomes aware of such, please ensure that Sgt. Monck, the Deputy Harbor Master or myself are aware so that we can address the situation.

Expenses outstanding

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| • fuel | \$ 139.95 |
| • Stamford 421 equipment/repair | \$ 240.00 |
| • Harbor Master cellphone + miscellanies | \$ <u>108.90</u> |
| | \$ <u>488.85</u> |

Harbor Master – Running Costs

- Finally, in light of the withdrawal of funding to the Harbor Commission, I attach a spread sheet of contemporaneous running costs for the Harbor Master office which includes the Commission boat Coast Guard designation *Stamford 421* to assist the Commission in challenging the budget cut and moving forwards with other harbor fiscal policy that may develop.

Respectfully submitted

Captain Eric Knott

Captain Yale Greenman

Harbor Master

Deputy Harbor Master