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STEVEN M. LOEB, ALTERNATE  
MICHAEL PENSIERO, ALTERNATE

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

**Minutes of March April 19, 2016**

**DRAFT**

A regularly scheduled meeting was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at the Stamford Government Center – Training Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor.

Called to order at 6:32 p.m., Chairman Ortelli presiding.

**In Attendance:**

**Commissioners:** Dr. Damian Ortelli; Paul Adelberg; Robert Karp; Jeffrey Saunders; Robert J. Strada; 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 Ray Redniss; Alternate Steven Loeb; and Sean Elumba, Marina Supervisor

Chairman Ortelli opened the meeting with **Old Business / Agenda Item 5a**: discussion of HMC's budget for fiscal year 2016-17. City OPM Director Jay Fountain, soon joined by Mayor David Martin, explained the rationale for closing the Commission's existing ops/admin. account, leaving in place its revenue account to fund both administrative and harbor improvement/safety projects. The mayor stated that, because the Commission has the ability to raise funds through user fees, it can afford to self-fund, including its regulatory functions, without having to rely on taxpayer dollars. A vigorous discussion ensued between the mayor and various commissioners over the efficacy of this rationale and whether it sets a bad precedent for funding a governmental agency enabled by state law and enacted by city ordinance. The mayor did not agree with that assessment. He also admonished the Commission to seek approvals from the city's boards of Finance and Representatives for future expenditures.

Harbormaster Knott raised with the Mayor the lengthy time it takes to receive reimbursement for out of pocket expenses incurred running and maintaining the HMC's patrol vessel. Mayor Martin questioned how such reimbursement could happen in the first place, given that Harbormaster Knott is neither a city employee nor under contract with the city. Knott countered he will no longer personally front these expenses. Director Fountain stated he will find a mutually beneficial resolution.

**1) Review and Approval of March 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes.**

**Commissioner Saunders moved to approve.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Pensiero                      Approved Unanimously**

**2) Chairman's Report: D. Ortelli.**

- a) The agreement to locate the SMPD Substation at Shippan Landing in unoccupied Vineyard Vines office space is before the Board of Finance. Approval by Memorial Day Weekend is anticipated.
- b) Planners have chosen Option B in the redesign of Cummings Park, relocating the marina's landward support structures and parking lot east of the lagoon. However, funding for the upcoming fiscal year has been cut.
- c) The Zoning Board has referred BLT's amended boatyard submissions to the PB and to the HMC. The Commission's copies arrived on 4/4/2016, same day as ARC's monthly meeting. To expedite Commission review the applicant will be asked to present its proposed changes at a combined ARC-Full Commission meeting on 5/2/2016. If

needed to complete its review, the full commission will meet again on May 17, 2016, prior to the ZB's scheduled public hearing.

### **3) Committee Reports:**

**Safety – R. Strada.** No Meeting, no report.

**Applications Review – G. Trow.** Meeting was held on Monday, April 4, 2016. The following applications were presented for full commission action: (Alternate M. Pensiero voting in place of Commissioner Redniss)

- **CT DEEP OLISP – CT DOT Project No. 135-307,** a pre-app review for replacing the bridge along U.S. Route 1 at the Stamford and Darien border. Drainage and storm water run-off are major HMC concerns, especially, it was noted, since the City has been violated by EPA/CT-DEEP for polluting storm drains. The committee has no objection to DOT developing its design plans further, subject to the following conditions enumerated by Commission Consultant Steadman: implement all feasible measures to avoid and manage storm water runoff, including runoffs from the bridge deck into the Noroton River; that there be no direct rain water discharge into the river; that all 31 catch basins drain into two outfalls before draining into the river; that sumps be installed to capture surface sediment; that final bridge design and construction incorporate all feasible solutions and best practices to improve drainage over existing conditions; and that the HMC reserves its right to comment further as more detailed bridge designs are presented.

**Commissioner Trow made a motion to accept the committee's recommendations encompassing Consultant Steadman's comments.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Adelberg**

**Approved Unanimously**

- **Application CSPR-1005 – JOHN & MARILYN GRISWALD, 131 DOLPHIN COVE QUAY,** request approval for an installed underground propane tank.

**Commissioner Trow moved to accept the committee's recommendation that no comment be made based on Consultant Steadman's finding that this condition is not addressed in the HMP.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Adelberg**

**Approved Unanimously**

- **Application CSPR-1006 – RICHARD REDNISS, 680 & 750 WASHINGTON BLVD,** request approval for façade improvements for both buildings and also request approval to enclose an area on the ground floor of 680 Washington Blvd. to create a fitness amenity. Property is located within the northern edge of the CAM Boundary.

**Commissioner Trow made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation encompassing Consultant Steadman's finding the application is not pertinent to the HMP and has no adverse impact on CAM issues. The Commission makes no comment.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Adelberg**

**Approved Unanimously**

**COP – JOSEPH RISOLI P.E., GIORDANO, 84 DAVENPORT DRIVE,** reconstruction of a private dock at this waterfront residence. It was noted the applicant is the project engineer instead of the property owner, an unusual and possibly inappropriate arrangement. It was also noted that DEEP is extending its review period.

**Commissioner Trow moved to table this matter until further information is received from DEEP.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Adelberg**

**Approved Unanimously**

**Planning/Moorings – R. Redniss.** No Meeting, no report

**Harbor Management Review – R. Redniss.** Meeting held on March 28, 2016. Commissioner Karp reported that it was a preliminary effort to review the Commission's altered budget status for fiscal 2016-17 and to establish a process for discussing budget line items and fee structures.

### **4) Staff Reports:**

**a) Financial – Frank Fedeli**

As of today a little over \$40,000.00 in HMC's accounts.

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

**5) Old Business: (Continuation)**

- a) The Brewers Yacht Haven East/Jack Island dredging project is winding down. No report has been received on whether a ridge of mud and muck has been fully removed along the easterly slips adjacent to the so-called Downs Ave. Lagoon.
- b) Reprinting SHMC Safety Pamphlets for the upcoming boating season was discussed. A last revision date is to be printed on them to avoid confusion. Other updates include changing Avalon Anchorage to TGM Anchorage and removing the temporarily defunct Cummings Park Marina. Print quantity is 1000. Expenditure is to be covered by remaining funds in HMC's current ops/admin budget or, if insufficient balance, through the city's marina account, per F. Fedeli.

**Commissioner Karp made a motion to print 1,000 copies of the Safety Pamphlets with revisions/corrections as discussed.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Adelberg**

**Approved Unanimously**

**6) New Business:**

- a) As a prelude to the Commission's review of BLT's latest iterations of its boatyard proposals, Consultant Steadman discussed a memo the applicant sent to the city's planning and zoning boards. The memo proffers a number of claims which, in Steadman's opinion, eviscerates the water dependent policies of the Coastal Mgt. Act, and by extension those of Stamford's Harbor Plan, Stamford's Master Plan and the SRD-S zoning tract. Steadman provided historical context for Stamford's current coastal management policies since the adoption of CT's CAM program in 1978.

**7) Public Participation:**

- Michael Jachimczyk of the newly re-established Stamford Shellfish Commission introduced himself, stating a cooperative working relationship between the Shellfish and Harbor Mgt. commissions would be beneficial. He announced that stricter water quality standards for shell fishing are being imposed by federal and state regulators, requiring more frequent water testing.

**8) Next SHMC-ARC meeting on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. and then SHMC meeting on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Upon motion by Commissioner Adelberg and seconded by Commissioner Trow, Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted

Robert M. Karp

Secretary/Treasurer

April 20, 2016

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

## Stamford Harbor Master's Report 04/19/2016

### Moorings.

- Renewals are now more or less complete. Mooring status (as of 4/18/2016);
  - Approved - 71
  - Awaiting inspection - 05
  - Under review - 01
  - EXPIRED Renewal not received - 06
  - Held inactive for 2016 season - 06
  - Not being renewed - 12
- A 'permit cancelation' e-mail was sent on 3/30/2016 to permit holders from whom no renewal application had been received. This generated 5-renewal completions within 15-minutes and 2 more by the end of the morning.
- The Ford North shell fish bed issue continues relentlessly. The court case has expanded and I see no resolution unless the parties concerned become less adversarial and move towards compromise.
- 2016 moorings are starting to be deployed by both SYC and Old Greenwich Marine. Particularly in Westcott cover and the 'lunch hook' area inside the western end of the outer breakwater, we may have to start removing the unpermitted moorings to make space for those that have permits. I will keep the Commission updated.

### Commercial fishing activity

- Matters are progressing, thanks to the good offices of Vice Chairman Ray Redniss and the continuing goodwill of concerned parties. My thanks to everyone involved.

### Hurricane plan.

- On April 12<sup>th</sup> I participated in a FEMA led national hurricane response exercise. It was very informative and very different to those in the commercial maritime industry. A number of subjects were identified that directly concern harbor preparation and post-storm response and these are presently being discussed between relevant agencies. A further report will be made when appropriate.

### Harbor Commission boat.

- On March 26<sup>th</sup>, the boat was hauled at Palmer Point Marina in Cos Cob. The bottom was cleaned and anti-fouling paint reapplied. The engine gearbox oil was drained, flushed and refilled before re-launch and return to Stamford that afternoon. The boat is now ready for service during the coming season.

### Garbage and effluent

- There have been several large pieces of debris reported or seen in the harbor, including a piece of broken dock approximately 6'x2'x3' with 2' long stainless steel bolts protruding that was recovered by my grandson over the past weekend.

### Harbor activity

- A towed side-scan survey will be taking place off Stamford between May 16<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is being conducted by two research vessels from the University of Rhode Island. The survey relates to reported or documented historic ship wrecks. The full DEEP notice with chart extract is attached to this report.

### Harbor Visit

- On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, I am hosting a visit and on the water tour of the harbor by Dominic Yanchunas, the editor of Professional Mariner magazine. This is part of the group that also publishes Ocean Navigator and a number of other marine related publications. I hope to be able to generate some positive publicity for the harbor.

## Stamford Harbor Master's Report 04/19/2016

### Expenses outstanding

- fuel \$ 0.00
  - Stamford 421 equipment/repair \$ 1120.83
  - Harbor Master cellphone + miscellanies \$ 108.90
- \$ 1229.73

Respectfully submitted

Captain Eric Knott

Captain Yale Greenman

Harbor Master

Deputy Harbor Master