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PAUL ADELBERG  
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ROBERT J. STRADA  
GRIFFITH H. TROW

STEVEN M. LOEB, ALTERNATE  
MICHAEL PENSIERO, ALTERNATE

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

**Minutes of August 16, 2016**

**DRAFT**

A regularly scheduled meeting was held on Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at the Stamford Government Center – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.

Call to order at 6:36 P.M., Chairman Ortelli presiding.

**In Attendance:**

Commissioners: Paul Adelberg; Robert Karp; Dr. Damian Ortelli; Ray Redniss; Jeffery Saunders; Griffith Trow; Michael Pensiero, Alt.

Staff: Eric Knott, Harbor Master; Yale Greenman, Deputy Harbor Master; Frank Fedeli, COS; Sgt. Bob Monck, Stamford Police Dept.; Geoff Steadman, HMC Consultant; Yvonne Jackson, Admin. Support

**Absent:** Commissioners Robert Strada and Steven Loeb, Alt.; Sean Elumba, Marina Supervisor

**1) Review and Approval of July 19, 2016 meeting minutes:**

Commissioner Pensiero moved to approve as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Redniss. Approved unanimously.

**2) Chairman's Report:**

HMC has been invited by the mayor to meet with representatives of the newly formed CT. Port Authority. A number of topics will be discussed, among them funding for dredging projects at Cummings and Cove Island marinas.

Harbor Fest, a day long celebration of Stamford's waterfront, is scheduled for this Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. It is also a fundraiser for Soundwaters/Young Mariners featuring numerous water related activities and events, plus an 8PM fireworks display off the former Yacht Haven West peninsula.

**3) Committee Reports:**

**Safety** – R. Strada no meeting, no report

**Applications Review** – G. Trow presenting. Meeting held on 8/2/2016.

- A Certificate of Permission (COP) application concerning the shoreline boardwalk at the Baypointe residential project on Southfield Avenue. The walkway, designed to provide continuous public access along the West Branch of the harbor, needs to be linked at the parcel's north side where a 2 to 3 foot gap presently exists. The Commission found the linkage consistent with the HM Plan. On a... **Motion made by Commissioner Karp, seconded by Commissioner Saunders, with Commissioner Redniss abstaining, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the committee's findings and transmit them with a favorable comment.**

- ZB Application CSPR-1012, to enlarge a living room at 224 Dolphin Cove Quay. Commission found no adverse impact within the HM Area. Commenting that the project should adhere to FEMA and CAM regulations, all best management practices and city codes, it voted unanimously on a...  
**Motion made by Commissioner Pensiero, seconded by Commissioner Saunders, to transmit its findings without additional comment.**
  
- ZB Application CSPR1015, to construct a 14,090 Sq. Ft. addition with a new walk and elevated patio at 145 Ocean Drive West. Commission found no adverse impact within the HM Area. Commenting that the project should adhere to FEMA and CAM regulations, all best management practices and city codes, it voted unanimously on a....  
**Motion made by Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Pensiero, with Commissioner Redniss abstaining, to transmit its findings without additional comment.**
  
- ZB Application CSPR1013, to expand the kitchen and dining room and to add a master bedroom and bathroom over the expanded kitchen/dining room at 19 Albin Road. Commission found no adverse impacts within the HM Area, providing all best practices and city codes are followed. It voted unanimously on a....  
**Motion by Commissioner Pensiero, seconded by Commissioner Saunders to transmit its findings without additional comment.**
  
- ZB Application CSPR1014, to extend a lower level family room by approx. 7' x 20"6" at 64 Ocean Drive West. Commission found no adverse impacts within the HM Area, providing all best practices and city codes are adhered to. It voted unanimously on a....  
**Motion by Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Pensiero to transmit its findings without additional comment.**

**Planning/Moorings – R. Redniss. No meeting.**

- Commissioner Redniss received word from Soundwaters of a NOAA grant earmarked for cleaning harbors. Overwhelming consensus was expressed by Commission members to pursue this grant opportunity.

**Financial Review – R. Redniss**

- Still waiting for annual budget estimates from all committees and staff. Next meeting date set for August 23, 2016 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Cafeteria of the SGC.

**4) Staff Reports:**

**Financial – Frank Fedeli**

Presented an income and expenditures report to date.

Operating Expenses:	\$ 4,506.43
Revenue Account Income:	15,284.67
Current Balance	\$ 40,509.57

It was stressed to Mr. Fedeli that revenue funds and operating funds be kept in separate accounts.

**Harbor Master – Eric Knott (see attachment for full report)**

Highlights: During a heavy July 25 thunderstorm 2 barges broke loose from their West Branch dock at O & G but no damage reported. Recreational traffic is high; water safety awareness is low; increased number of paddle boarders and kayakers; local boaters traveling at high rates of speed; more dock and dine venues leading to more DWB (Drinking While Boating). There is a lack of visible enforcement. Sgt. Monck reported a severe manpower shortage in the police dept. There are only three marine qualified officers assigned to harbor patrol, with one of them currently in sick bay. Capt. Knott agreed to bring his request for greater police presence and overall concerns for water safety before the Commission's Safety Committee. He publicly thanked Deputy Harbor Master Yale Greenman for his presence and assistance in patrolling Stamford's waters.

#### **5) Old Business**

**a- Tabled: nomination and election of HMC officers**

**b- Reminder: commissioners whose terms have expired and who want to be reappointed should contact their appropriate Democratic or Republican nominating committees**

**c- Memo from City Budget Director Jay Fountain regarding future Commission budgets has been received and his assurances to the Commission were appreciated.**

**d- Consultant Steadman reported on the Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> site inspection and public meeting held by DEEP on the (Nussbaum) 100 Sea Beach Drive fence case. A public hearing is scheduled for Oct. 6 or 7 in Hartford.**

#### **6) New Business**

Reaction to the ZB's vote on the BLT Boatyard applications was voiced with many Commissioners expressing disappointment and frustration over the process as much as the result. It was felt that HMC members and staff deliberated each application with an extraordinary level of objectivity and professionalism. And that despite the ZB's rejection of many of the Commission's findings, the Commission did its work as it was supposed to do.

#### **7) Public Participation**

Erik Swanson, Manager of TGM Anchor Point Marina off Southfield Ave., introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Swanson offered his and his marina's assistance to promote and enhance harbor activities in a safe and constructive manner. Among his observations this season: excessive boat speeds in the channel; unsafe interactions between paddle boat/kayak renters and much larger water craft; and more prominent "no wake" signs need to be posted.

**8) Next HMC meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2016. Next ARC meeting T.B.D.**

Upon motion by Commissioner Adelberg and seconded by Commissioner Redniss, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert M. Karp  
Secretary/Treasurer

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

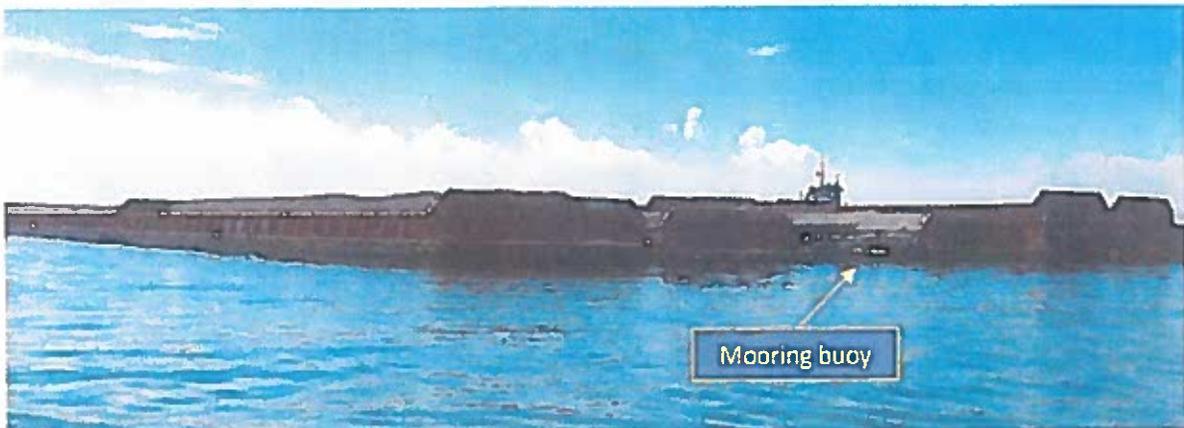
## Stamford Harbor Master's Report 08/16/2016

### Moorings.

- Renewals are now more or less complete. Mooring status (as of 8/16/2016);
  - Approved - 74
  - Awaiting inspection - 04
  - Under review - 05
  - EXPIRED Renewal not received - 06
  - Held inactive for 2016 season - 06
  - Not being renewed - 11
  - Revoked - 01
- A mooring permit holder who has been in continual non-compliance with mooring regulations for over a year has now 'given-up' his mooring and left the harbor.
- The Ford North shell fish lease mooring issue is again due before a Judge this Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Harbor Activity

- Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup> was very busy with high tide allowing tug/barge operation from noon onwards. The very good weather resulted in high levels of recreational traffic in the west branch (including all forms of water transport known to man) resulting in a request from 'tugs' for assistance 'if possible' to safely transit. The harbor boat was so occupied for almost 2½ hours. During this evolution, one paddle boarder and his board were physically plucked from the water within 100 feet of an incoming tug/barge. The patrons of the rental kayak/paddle boards seem to completely lack situational awareness on the water which repeatedly places them in conflict with both recreational and commercial vessels. Without increased guidance and supervision, a collision in the West Branch is inevitable potentially with resulting serious injury.
- I have had a number of complaints regarding the wake disturbance to moored boats from wake-boards and their specialist tow boats in the area inside the harbor breakwater. I have seen the boats operating, they remain outside of the speed restriction area and they do not appear to be operated in a manner that is unsafe.
- During heavy thunderstorms on July 25, 2 barges (one light and one loaded) partially broke free from O&G dock in the West Branch. Notification was received from both manager at the temporary boat yard and O&G, who were able to promptly coral and re-secure the barges with their on-site push boat. Enquiries show that the barges remained attached with one line while a second one had chaffed through and parted. No third party damage was reported.
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>. 10 barges (6 fully laden with gravel/aggregate and 4 empty) along with tug *Buchanan I* were found secured to the barge mooring. This equated to an estimated gross weight of approximately 35,000 tons.



I spoke with the Captain and Mate on the tug and with their head office. The tug immediately moved 4 barges

## Stamford Harbor Master's Report 08/16/2016

and returned on the evening tide to relocate further barges. It is of interest that there was only 1 barge alongside at the O&G docks.

I have sent an official warning letter to Buchanan (the second within 12 months) with copies to CT-DEEP and USACOE.

- 8/16/2016 follow-up; the day after the above incident, (Monday 15<sup>th</sup>), a commissioner reported 6x laden barges back on the mooring. After several long telephone calls to both Buchanan and their owning company US Waterways Transportation LLC (USWT), the barges were moved by the tug *Mr. Jim*. I spoke directly to the tug later that evening to confirm the situation. As last year, it is '3<sup>rd</sup> party' tugs that are abusing the mooring, often with non-Buchanan barges and without authorization to use the mooring. I am working with USWT to try and control the situation.
- The vast quantities of Bunker (fish) that have been resident in the harbor all summer have started their annual die-off. The cause is natural, hypoxia (suffocation/lack of oxygen). State Marine Fisheries scientists confirm there is no risk to people. This information may be given to any enquiries from the public, or refer them to me.
- I have been invited to a meeting on 9/22/2016 between the Chair of the Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) and the City Mayor to discuss the future of Stamford Harbor within the overall State strategies.
- There is ongoing concern regarding the coming Harbor Fest fireworks display that may impact safe vessel transit of the Federal Channel within the harbor. I have attended various meetings (along with Sgt. Monck) regarding the days' events and expressed concerns regarding safety of the on the water activities. WE have identified provisional anchorage areas for spectators, but that is still a work-in-progress.
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>. Another mooring broke free (no boat attached this time) and the buoy drifted through the harbor washing up at SYC. The owner has been contacted. The failure was such that it would not necessarily have been identified during a routine inspection.
- Over the past month, the number of local boats travelling through the harbor at speed have increased many fold. This will increasingly effect safety in the harbor. I believe that this is due to lack of official presence on the water due to reduced resources available to the Police Harbor Unit. I respectfully request that the Commission make representation to City Government to make available funding to train additional marine officers so that manpower is available to ensure a presence on the water during the summer, especially evenings and weekends from 08:00 to 23:59.

These comments should not in any way be taken as criticism of the Police Harbor Unit personnel who provide an excellent service within duty limitations.

### Garbage and Debris

- No appreciable change from last month.

### Expenses outstanding

- Harbor Master \$ 0.00

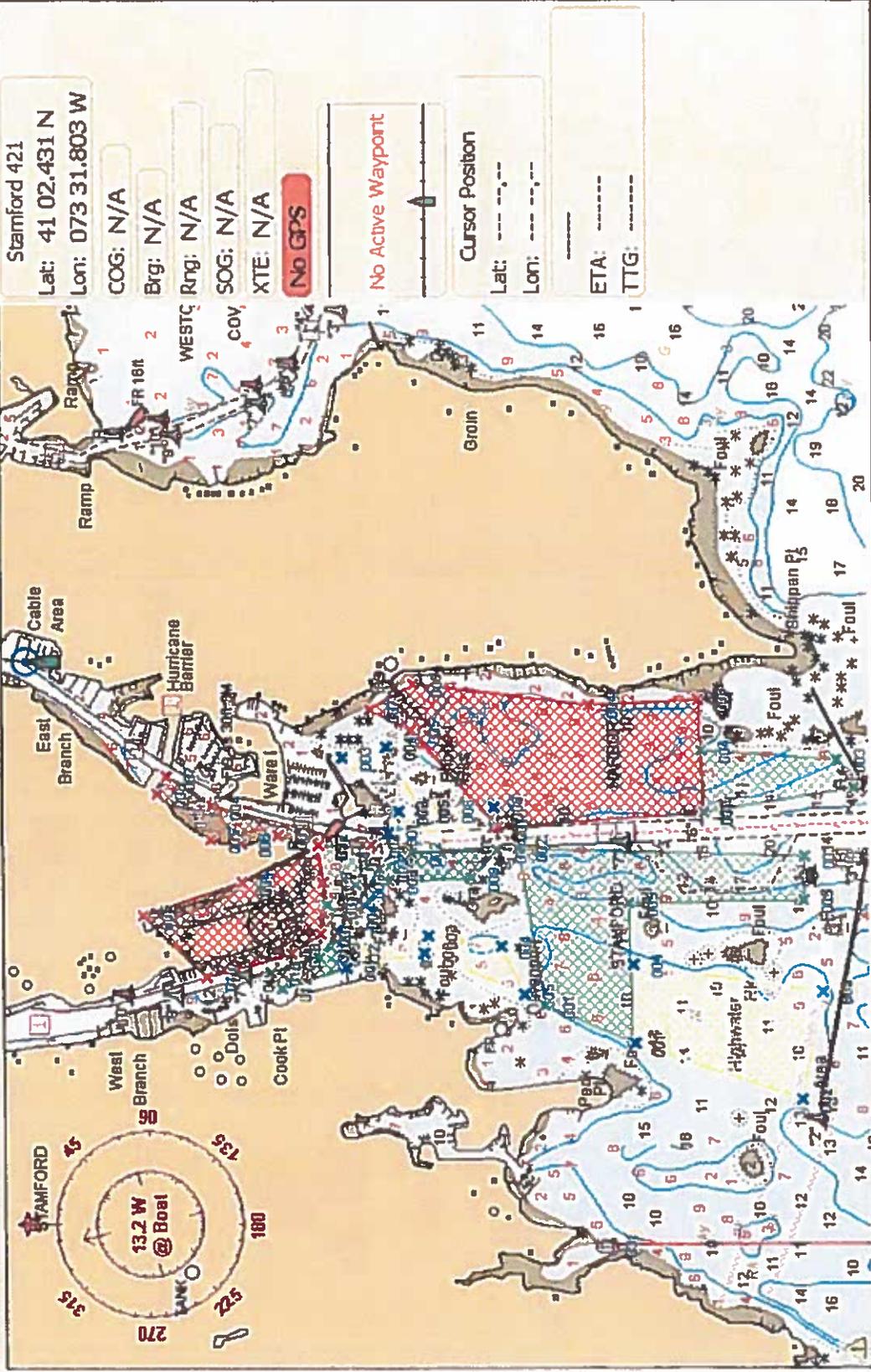
Respectfully submitted

Captain Eric Knott

State Harbor Master

Captain Yale Greenman

State Deputy Harbor Master

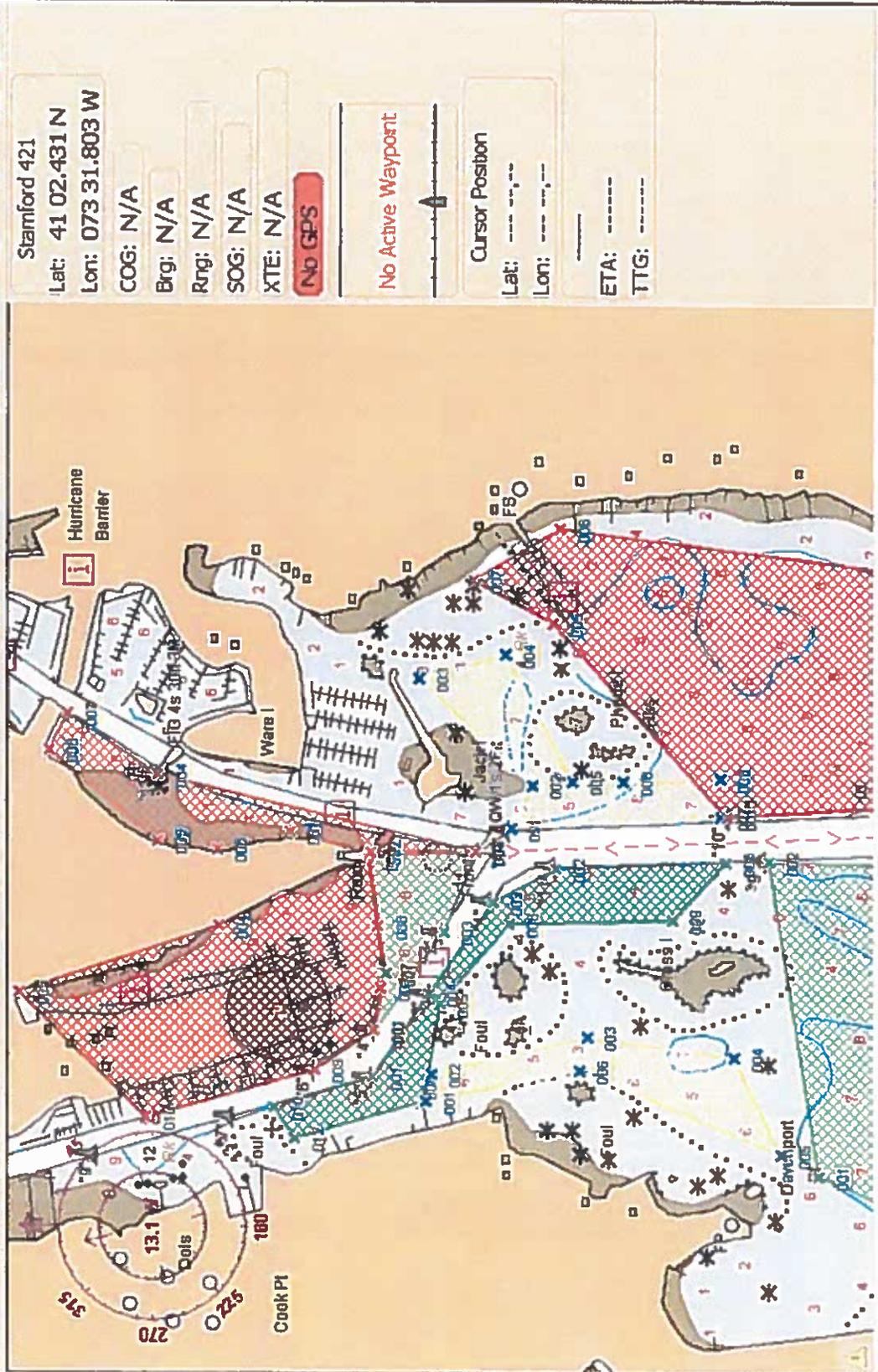


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