

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2021

A Meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) of the Town of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. via teleconference.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Taylor, Chairwoman; Ted Schwartzman; Harry French; Jacob Herschler; Eric Sundman; Doug Metchick; Mark Foster; Libby Tritschler; and Sam Cargill. **ALSO PRESENT:** Geoffrey Steadman, HMC Consultant, and Harbor Master Edward Billings.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Kim Taylor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Special HMC meeting on November 12, 2020 – Ted Schwartzman moved and Sam Cargill seconded to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2020: Passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairwoman Taylor reported the following correspondence:

1. E-mail received on January 4, 2021 transmitting a DEEP application for a dock at 2060 Fairfield Beach Road.
2. Correspondence from Attorney John Casey regarding 789 Harbor Road; this has been distributed to the Commissioners this evening and is available on line.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT: Harbor Master Billings reported that the touch pad on the computer purchased last year for the Harbor Master's use is not functioning properly and IT has determined that it is not worth repairing. The six-week warranty has recently expired. Fortunately, the computer functions with a corded mouse. Mooring renewal notices went out about a week late; it is anticipated that use and operation of the online mooring system will proceed more smoothly in this, its second, year. Mooring applications are continuing to come in, although some individuals have not provided all necessary documentation.

Jeff Engborg of the Pequot Yacht Club contacted the Harbor Master and advised him that one of the safety boats utilized by the PYC will be replaced soon and may be donated to the HMC for use by the Harbor Master. Harbor Master Billings recommended that the HMC consider budgeting for future costs related to maintenance of the vessel and trailer. Chairwoman Taylor thanked the PYC for this generous offer and said she will review the Town procedure for accepting gifts of this nature. Commissioner Schwartzman requested that the Harbor Master begin putting together a list of anticipated expenses for maintenance and equipment, including safety equipment. Commissioner Herschler recommended that the Town's Risk Manager be contacted relative to any insurance requirements.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Lower Wharf Project: Mr. Steadman: Mr. Steadman reported that he continues to discuss next steps to advance the project with Mr. Sternberg from RACE Coastal Engineering and Town Engineer Bill Hurley. The permit has expired and will not be renewed again by DEEP. If the HMC wishes to proceed with the project, the HMC must now apply for a new permit. It was noted that sediment testing has been completed. Following considerable discussion, it was the consensus of the HMC to proceed with this project, and to request that Mr. Steadman review this matter with RACE.
2. Sand Management Project: Mr. Steadman and Mr. Foster: Mr. Steadman reported that many respondents to the questionnaire consider restoring the full width of the federal channel to be a most important project. The Army Corps of Engineers will provide potential dates for an on-site meeting with the HMC and DEEP.
3. Mooring Committee: The Mooring Committee last met on January 14, 2021.
4. Harbor Management Plan Update: Chairwoman Taylor advised the HMC that there now are more than 200 responses to the questionnaire, and that she anticipates presenting results by the February meeting. Mr. Steadman reported that the responses are generally thoughtful, constructive, and positive.
5. Proposed Changes to Rules and Procedures: Mr. Herschler: No further discussion on this matter this evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Report on the Pequot Yacht Club on Examination of Mooring Tackle in Southport Harbor: Mr. Engborg provided the HMC with a detailed report on the mooring tackle inspection and replacement program and procedures. The HMC thanked Mr. Engborg for the informative session.
2. CT DEEP public information meeting on January 6, 2021 in connection with DEEP Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve Aquarion Water Company's Application for Consumptive Diversion of Water Permit and Notice of Information Hearing: Mr. Steadman provided the HMC with a brief history on this matter. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the HMC that the HMC should submit a letter to DEEP outlining the HMC's questions and concerns regarding this proposal. Mr. Steadman will assist with preparation of the letter.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Harry French ***moved***, and Mark Foster ***seconded*** to adjourn at 6:28 p.m. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

The audio recording can be found here: [Harbor Management Commission - 1/19/21 - YouTube](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Gabriel