

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2021

A Meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) of the Town of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of The Honorable John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT, and via teleconference.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kim Taylor, Chairwoman, Jacob Herschler, Ted Schwartzman, Harry French, Mark Foster, Doug Metchick, and Sam Cargill. **ABSENT:** Eric Sundman and Libby Tritschler. **ALSO PRESENT:** Geoffrey Steadman, HMC Consultant, Richard Parker, Resident.

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairwoman Kim Taylor reported receipt of the following:

1. August 4, 2021 Anonymous letter complaining of underage users of jet skis docked in the harbor: *Chairwoman Taylor indicated that additional information was needed concerning this matter and encouraged the sender, if he or she was listening to the meeting this evening, to call the police department's Marine Unit if this occurs again, and to also contact the HMC with any identifying information so that the matter can be properly investigated.*

APPLICATIONS: No new applications.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **LOWER WHARF PROJECT:** Mr. Steadman reported that he received the proposal by Mr. Sternberg of RACE for preparing a new permit application, including costs for sampling and survey work (approximately 32k). There are insufficient grant funds available to conduct all aspects of the Lower Wharf project, including new permitting and construction. Upon inquiry by Mr. Steadman, Mr. Sternberg confirmed that RACE can modify the scope of services in the proposal to only include that portion of the project relative to the dredging for the launch ramp area, installation of the last panel of the launching ramp, rebuilding of the Lower wharf public access piers, and repair of the Lower Wharf wall. Mr. Schwartzman advised the HMC that there is approximately 21k remaining in the Lower Wharf account, and two open purchase orders to Arrow Concrete for the last piece of the ramp. Mr. Steadman reported that it should be anticipated that the CT Port Authority will have additional grant funds available for future harbor projects, perhaps including re-building of the Perry Green bulkhead. Following discussion, Chairwoman Taylor summarized the discussion to clarify the intent of the HMC: RACE would modify the scope of services as discussed. Mr. Foster questioned whether the end benefit of any dredging in and around the boat ramp would be worth the expense and effort since the area would only require future dredging and the ramp would be back in the shallow water again. Mr. Foster noted that when he utilizes the ramp at this location he works with the tide. Following considerable discussion, it was determined that Mr. Steadman would speak with Marina Manager Justin Cathcart prior to any modification of the Scope of Services by RACE, and will also confirm with the Town engineer who is working on cost

estimates for repairing the wall at Perry's Green. Mr. Sternberg indicated that he can have a modified proposal available for the HMC's September meeting.

2. **SAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT:** Mr. Steadman and Mr. Foster: Mr. Steadman reported that he spoke with DEEP and the ACOE today; although there are still ownership questions that need to be addressed, there has been some progress with scheduling the site meeting. The ACOE is not overly concerned with the plants in the area, but does have concern for the mitigation of the piping plover habitat.
3. **MOORING COMMITTEE:** Mr. Herschler reported that the Mooring Committee met recently; there are approximately 72 names on the wait list, and four new applications have been submitted. Online Mooring had inadvertently made a duplicate payment to the Town; this is being corrected.
4. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RULES AND PROCEDURES:** Mr. Herschler reported that the next step in the process is RTM approval of the HMC's recommended changes to the Town Code. It is possible that this may be on the RTM's September agenda.
5. **PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE:** Chairwoman Taylor reported that Mr. Steadman is currently working on Chapter 6 which was previously discussed by the committee.
6. Harbor Master Search: Chairwoman Taylor noted that the posting for the Harbor Master position was put on the website in July; a few resumes have been submitted for consideration. Chairwoman Taylor will keep the HMC apprised of any developments.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FOIA Request from Attorney John Casey representing Tom Owens: Chairwoman Taylor advised the HMC that the materials have been submitted to the Town Risk Manager who will handle the compliance for the HMC.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Harry French ***moved***, and Mark Foster ***seconded*** to adjourn at 5:38 p.m. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

The audio recording can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9YH2_7fSyA

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Gabriel