

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

A Meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) of the Town of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of Town Hall, 611 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT, and via teleconference.

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

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 20, 2021, August 10, 2021, and August 17, 2021

Mark Foster moved and Jac Herschler seconded to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2021 as presented: Motion passed unanimously.

Eric Sundman moved and Jac Herschler seconded to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2021 as presented: Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Foster moved and Harry French seconded to approve the Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2021 as presented: Motion passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Chairwoman Kim Taylor reported the following communications:

1. August 16, 2021 copied on an email from DEEP to representatives of 233 Riverside Avenue transmitting a license for a new residential dock in Ash Creek.
2. August 19, 2021 email to all mooring holders in the South Anchorage to prepare for tropical storm Henri.
3. August 23, 2021 email exchange with Travis Herman of Pequot Yacht Club thanking him after he reported moving 4 boats from the outer part of the harbor to the guest moorings and North Anchorage as Henri approached.
4. August 24, 2021 email from Steven Delco asking that a "no dogs allowed" sign be put up at the Lower Wharf.
5. August 24, 2021 email exchange with Parks and Recreation about "no dogs" signs at the Lower Wharf.
6. August 30, 2021 email exchange with Jim Bradley who agreed to help locate some of the information required by the Army Corps for their harbor dredging plans.
7. September 8, 2021 letter to David Blatt of DEEP requesting confirmation and comments regarding HMC understanding of littoral rights matters. – *Chairwoman Taylor noted that she is still awaiting a response.*

APPLICATIONS: No new applications.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **HARBOR MASTER SEARCH COMMITTEE:** At 4:54 Harry French *moved* and Mark Foster *seconded* to go into executive session (it was noted that Members participating via teleconference would not be participating during executive session): *Motion passed unanimously*. The HMC came out of executive session at 5:14 p.m.; no votes were taken in executive session.
2. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION OF THE HARBOR MASTER SEARCH COMMITTEE:** Chairwoman Taylor noted that the Search Committee members consisted of Jac Herschler, Kim Taylor, Cheryl Beacock, Harry French, and Devin Santa. A job summary was created, and was posted for approximately 3 weeks. Four responses were received, each respondent was asked the same questions and interviewed for 90 minutes. Following the Committee's consideration and discussion, the following priority recommendation for submittal to the Governor's Office was approved: (1) Bryan LeClerc; (2) John Dean; and (3) John Wynn. Chairwoman Taylor welcomed questions from those members who had not been present during the Executive Session portion of the meeting (*none received*). Jac Herschler *moved* and Harry French *seconded* to approve the Committee recommendation as presented for submittal to the Governor's Office. *Motion passed unanimously*.
3. **LOWER WHARF PROJECT:** Chairwoman Taylor indicated that she spoke with Steve Sternberg of RACE and requested a proposal for obtaining the required new Permit prior to the next meeting. Mr. Steadman reported that he is continuing to conduct research pertinent to this project and that a substantial additional cost for sediment testing is expected due to requirements recently imposed by New York State for dredged material disposed of in Long Island Sound. As a result, the value of the dredging component of the project relative to the cost of permitting and construction is questionable. The total cost for additional work by RACE and permitting are not known at this time. The new proposal is expected to include replacement of the deteriorating piers, wharf repairs, and additional enhancement of the boat launching ramp. Mr. Steadman reported that he continues to discuss the project with Marina Manager Justin Cathcart and Town Engineer William Hurley. Mr. Hurley will obtain additional information from the DPW Foreman about the previous installation of the boat launch blanks by DPW employees. Mr. Steadman also discussed the project with the CT Port Authority representative relative to utilizing the grant funds originally designated for dredging and should be able to provide the HMC with updated information for the October meeting.
4. **SAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT:** Mr. Steadman and Mr. Foster: Historical information is being compiled; a site meeting with Corps of Engineers representatives will be scheduled.
5. **MOORING COMMITTEE:** Mr. Herschler reported that the Mooring Committee met on September 15th; at that meeting it was reported that there are four new wait list applicants; Kim Taylor provided a report on the Harbor Master interview process; Jeff Engborg reported on storm damage.

6. **RULES AND PROCEDURES:** The RTM L&A Committee met on September 20 and discussed the proposed changes to the Town Code; Chairwoman Taylor, Mr. Herschler, and Mr. Steadman attended. The HMC is invited to attend the RTM meeting on September 27 to be available for any questions when this matter is on the agenda. The July 20, 2020 Southport Harbor presentation and the Southport Harbor survey were forwarded to the RTM for their information.

7. **PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE:** Nothing new to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Status and Scope of HMC's responsibility for Lower Wharf: The HMC has received a request for signage to be placed at the Harbor Road property, adjacent to the Lower Wharf, acquired by the Town in 2019. Mr. Steadman noted that the HMC's role for managing this acquired property must be clarified; this matter will be reviewed with Town Counsel. Sam Cargill noted that Mr. McMahon, the property owner who had transferred this parcel to the Town, seems to have followed the protocols relative to the agreement. Chairwoman Taylor noted the Lower Wharf deed restrictions and that the HMC needs more information from the First Selectwoman's Office and Town Counsel before moving forward.

Sam Cargill left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

OTHER: Mr. Steadman reported that the DEEP has issued a proposed final decision for approving Aquarion's water diversion application. The proposal calls for a 25-year permit to divert an additional 7 million gallons of water from the Hemlocks Reservoir system to Southwest Connecticut. The DEEP Commissioner must issue a final decision.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Jac Herschler ***moved***, and Mark Foster ***seconded*** to adjourn at 5:58 p.m. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

The audio recording can be found here: [Harbor Management Commission - 9/21/21 - YouTube](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Gabriel