

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 23, 2016
City Hall, Room 210, 5:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alderman H. Tucker Braddock, Jr.
Alderman Gerald Martin
Josh Bakoulis
Michael Gualtieri

OTHERS PRESENT

Geoffrey Steadman – Consultant
Michael Valentine – Harbor Master
Melinda Wilson – Recording Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT

Richard Benoit
Homer Callicutt

CITIZENS PRESENT

Joanne Miller
Richard Zictorac

1. Call to Order: Alderman Gerald Martin called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Determination of Quorum: It was determined a quorum was present.

On a motion by Tucker Braddock, seconded by Mike Gualtieri, the Commission unanimously voted to suspend the order of the agenda to elect chair and vice chair.

Mike Gualtieri nominated Jerry Martin as Chair of the Harbor Management Commission, John Salomone seconded, and the motion carried.

Tucker Braddock nominated Richard Benoit as Vice Chair of the Harbor Management Commission, John Salomone seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Tucker Braddock, seconded by Mike Gualtieri, the meeting returned to the established agenda with unanimous approval.

3. Approval of Minutes, Nov 24, 2015:

On a motion to accept as submitted by Tucker Braddock, seconded by Jerry Martin, the Commission voted to accept the minutes of November 24, 2015. John Salomone abstained due to non-attendance.

4. Correspondence:

The December and January budget reports were reviewed. On a motion by Tucker Braddock, seconded by Mike Gualtieri, the Commission unanimously voted to accept this as a treasurer's report going forward.

5. Harbor Master Report:

Michael Valentine reported that the harbor was quiet for the last month. There was some freezing but the ice was gone at the time of his report. He reported on aquatic life- seals, minks, and swans were in the harbor. Tucker asked about plans on the harbor, and traffic through the harbor. Mike verified that the docks were out. Tucker requested more substantive information on activities in the harbor, i.e. traffic, buoys, etc., in future Harbor Master Reports to the Commission.

On a motion by Tucker Braddock, seconded by John Salomone, the Harbor Master Report was unanimously accepted.

6. New Business:

None

7. Old Business:

a. Yantic River Dredging: Geoff reported on the status of this project. He gave the history of the project for the benefit of new members. The dredging would create channels to allow boats at all stages of tides. Due to a lack of funding, the project was halted. The dredged material cannot be added to the Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) new wastewater treatment site, which had been hoped. It is not feasible due to the design of the landfill. The Commission spoke with Mike LaLima of NPU and to representatives from the CT DEEP regarding the project. With the establishment of the Port Authority, the project is stalled until new state procedures are put in place. Jerry Martin noted the item will be removed from future agendas.

b. Downtown Policing: Sgt. Peter Camp was not present.

c. CT Port Authority: Geoff reported their first meeting is next week. The hope remains that small harbors qualify to apply for grant-in-aid programs. The First Selectwoman of Old Lyme has been appointed. Geoff will know the other appointments after next week's meeting. Tucker asked for a contact list of appointees which Geoff agreed to procure.

d. Kayak Trail Map Sign Installation: Discussion ensued as to the placement of the Kayak Trail sign. It was decided that Jerry and Tucker will take pictures of the preferred location of the sign and get the pictures to the Department of Public Works. They will place the sign. Geoff handed out a brochure on the Norwich Kayak Trail.

e. Harbor Cam Installation: Discussion was held regarding the potential uses and locations of the harbor cam. The Capano family would need to provide a location a top one of the buildings. Jerry asked that the item remain on the agenda.

f. Harbor Management Plan Review: Geoff presented an original copy of the Harbor Management Plan, as approved by the State and City Council in July 1996. Over the last ten years, the Harbor Management Commission has worked to incorporate initiatives related to the Plan. Also, a waterfront vision project was done five years ago as an interim guide document. An update of the Plan was planned for this year. A key reason to continue with a Plan is to increase the City's authority regarding permits. The document was based on improving the boat launch, providing public access and waterfront redevelopment.

Discussion was held regarding three opportunities for a potential boat launch. Geoff reported that NCDC did an evaluation of the potential launch sites. He handed out copies of his aerial photographs of the harbor and downtown areas for new members. Jerry noted the Commission will review this at the next meeting.

8. Citizen Comment:

Richard Zictorac reported that kayaks have been put into the river from the launch near the Hamilton Avenue football fields. This seems like a beneficial launch location for kayaks. Jerry noted the water is low at that spot during low tide. Richard also noted that a few of the big stones should be moved at the harbor boat launch to increase convenience for trucks with boat trailers. He also suggested new trailer parking at Brown Park on the grass near the electrical panels. Jerry said the Commission would take his ideas under advisement.

9. Other:

Jerry asked Commission members to give some thought into the failed Shipping Street boat launch project. Discussion will be held at the next meeting.

Jerry opened discussion on kayak tours. Tucker is doing one in June with a rain date. He will do another in the Fall, if there is interest.

Per Jerry, Rock the Docks has been scheduled for this summer. Friday Night Acoustics has moved to the Norwichtown Green.

Jerry asked if members would like to run a fishing derby in the second week of September. Mike Gualtieri and Josh Bakoulis agreed. Promotional materials were discussed.

Discussion took place on how to best elicit input from the fishermen and others that use the harbor. Mike mentioned creating a Suggestion Box. Josh suggested posting an email address on a sign at the launch asking users to please email comments. Mike suggested involving Richie Thayer. Jerry will call him.

Geoff mentioned that the city of West Haven is attempting to build a boat launch on a city owned site. They need to do a design and complete the permitting process. City leaders put together a bond request for cost estimates and design which is \$50,000.

Geoff reported his invoice was submitted it to John Salomone, City Manager. Tucker acknowledged the 2015 invoice was received. On a motion by Jerry Martin, seconded by Mike Gualtieri, the invoice was unanimously accepted.

10. Adjournment:

On a motion to adjourn by Tucker Braddock, seconded by Mike Gualtieri, the Harbor Management Commission meeting adjourned at 6:09 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Wilson
Recording Secretary*