

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 28, 2017  
City Hall, Room 210, 5:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

City Planner Deanna Rhodes  
Recording Secretary Melinda Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Richard Benoit  
Homer Callicutt

CITIZENS PRESENT

James Markow  
Lauren Gauthier  
Zechariah Stover

1. Call to Order: Alderman Martin called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

2. Determination of Quorum: It was determined a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Minutes January 24, 2017:

On a motion to accept by Alderman Braddock, seconded by Michael Gualtieri, the Commission unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2017 of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC).

On a motion by Michael Gualtieri, seconded by Alderman Braddock, the commission unanimously voted to suspend the agenda for discussion with Deanna Rhoades, City Planner, James Markow and Lauren Gauthier.

Deanna Rhoades gave the background on a new business in Norwich. Norm Bloom and Sons began clearing land along the harbor at 55 Terminal Way for an oyster farm. When this came to her attention, she asked them to cease. She discovered after research that the business is not an allowed use in the water. In an effort to clarify the approvals necessary for the business, today she met with DEEP Shell Fishing Division, Uncas Health District, Corporate Counsel Michael Driscoll, Lauren Gauthier and James Markow to discuss the process which needs to be followed in order to properly establish the aquaculture business along the Thames River in Norwich. They discussed the brownfield site at 55 Terminal Way, wetlands permit to remove

the trees and necessary zoning changes. James clarified that the Terminal Way owner gave him permission to use the property. Deanna noted that the reality of the timeline for the various approvals is that they would not be complete in time for this oyster season.

Deanna suggested a barge for this season, which could be used for a year while the permits are received and ordinances are changed. Alderman Martin noted that the oyster farm doesn't appear to infringe on boating and fishing in the harbor. The commission was favorable to the barge idea as presented. Deanna will send the ordinances and notes on necessary changes to James and Lauren.

Deanna, James and Lauren left the meeting.

On a motion by Alderman Braddock, seconded by Mike Gualtieri, the HMC unanimously voted to resume the agenda at 5:26 PM.

4. Community Policing:

Sergeant Perry of the Norwich Police Department (NPD) was not present.

5. Correspondence:

- a. The January HMC Financial Report was reviewed. On a motion by Alderman Braddock, seconded by Alderman Martin, the January Financial Report was unanimously accepted.

6. Harbor Master Report:

Michael Valentine, Harbor Master, was not present to discuss.

7. New Business:

Josh followed up on a grant opportunity he had emailed to the HMC regarding the Small Harbor Improvement Program from the Connecticut Port Authority. Alderman Martin reported that Geoff Steadman had also mentioned it to him. Josh briefly reviewed the criteria for the grant and noted the deadline of April 17, 2017. Discussion ensued.

On a motion by Alderman Braddock, seconded by Mike Gualtieri, the HMC voted unanimously to have Geoff Steadman apply for this grant on behalf of the HMC to bring the Waterfront Vision of 2011 up to date as the first priority, subject to review by Geoff Steadman.

8. Old Business:

- a. Harbor Cam: Alderman Martin reported he will call Scott Barbarossa to discuss installation of the harbor cam in the spring.
- b. Harbor Management Plan Review: Consultant Geoff Steadman was not present to discuss.
- c. Visit with Port Authority Commissioner: Alderman Martin reported on two meetings with Mr. Evan Matthews, Executive Director and Joseph Salvatore, Program Manager of the Connecticut Port Authority. The port authority representatives seemed pleased with the harbor and

waterfront in Norwich. During the first meeting, they reviewed slides relating to the waterfront vision. On the second meeting, they toured the Shipping Street site.

Alderman Martin also reported that Geoff Steadman has drafted a letter to the Connecticut Port Authority with an invitation to hold one of their monthly meetings at Norwich City Hall. The invitation includes Chairman Scott Bates.

9. Citizen Comment: None

10. Other: Alderman Martin reported that Rock the Docks will be held on July 5, 2017 at Howard T. Brown Park. Also, Friday Night Acoustics might come back to the harbor for the summer season.

11. Adjournment: On a motion to adjourn by Alderman Braddock, seconded by Josh Bakoulis, the Harbor Management Commission meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Melinda Wilson  
Recording Secretary*