

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016
City Hall, Room 210, 5:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Geoffrey Steadman - Consultant
Deanna Rhodes - City Planner
Marixsa Romanella - Recording Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT

Homer Callicutt
Joshua Bakoulis
Michael Valentine

CITIZENS PRESENT

None

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 July 27, 2016:
 - a. On a motion to accept as submitted by Michael Gualtieri, seconded by Alderman Braddock, the Commission unanimously voted to accept the minutes of the July 27, 2016 of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) as presented.
 - b. Motion to suspend the meeting by Alderman Martin to suspend the order of the agenda to allow Sargent Perry to provide an update, seconded by Alderman Braddock.
4. Community Policing:
 - a. August 1st or August 8th of 2017 the Police Department will be requesting the harbor for the National Night Out event. A motion to accept the Police Department's request for National Night Out on August 1st or August 8th was submitted by Michael Gualtieri, seconded by Alderman Martin and all were in favor of the motion.
 - b. This year was the largest National Night Out and it was very successful, with a culturally diverse and very enthusiastic crowd, the vendors were excited for the area.
 - c. Sargent Perry provided an updated on some of the things happening in Brown Park. There has been an increase of complaints about citizens netting ducks in the boat launch area. The area is being monitored.

- d. The Pokémon Go has slowed down a bit, there were no issues with citizens playing the game, and citizens thanked the PD for being there and making the area safe.
 - e. Sargent Perry stated that out of the 14 years he has been patrolling the area, he stated he never seen it so safe at the Brown Park and it's because of lots of good reasons with different avenues the PD has implemented this year. Getting the alcohol out of the park, bringing events into the park such as Rock the Docks, etc. Another concerns citizens had was short crabs/blue crabs being taken. Blue Crabs/short crabs have to be five inches if they are hard shells; some citizens expressed concern that the PD does not have jurisdiction on the blue crab. Sargent Perry stated that a DEP officer went to the PD building and address lineup so that all officers are aware of the strip fishing regulations and the blue crab regulations.
 - f. Weekends the PD has the Harbor Patrol, they have the police boat on Saturdays and Sundays and for special events.
 - g. No major issues in Brown Park this year.
 - h. Alderman Martin asked a question about the painted no parking around the curbs/fire zones, with regards to citizens parking in the area. The concern is if someone comes with a trailer/boat, it's very confined and it could be an accident waiting to happen. He asked if the PD could monitor the areas.
 - i. Geoff Steadman had a couple questions – wildlife laws – he asked if Norwich PD can enforce state law. He wanted to know if all state laws with regards to wildlife conservation can be enforced. Sargent Perry stated if it falls under DEEP law and it's in the regulation book, Norwich PD can enforce the state laws as they have the same regulation book. Geoff Steadman asked if someone is given a ticket, is the different than a state ticket, Sargent Perry stated it is not. It's the same ticket and fraction number.
 - j. Geoff Steadman also commented on signs that were prepared by the Harbor Commission such as the sign about the water trail and fishing at the harbor – he is very pleased that they have been there so long and no damage has been done to them. Sargent Perry stated it's because of the good partnership between the PD and the anglers. Sargent Perry asked about plastic signs regarding the blue crab, Alderman Martin stated DEP most likely has signs already made that they can provide. Geoff Steadman to contact and obtain signs for striper size and limit, as well as blue crab. Sargent Perry asked to inquire if they have the signs in different languages. Geoff Steadman to inquire about Spanish and Asian.
 - k. Alderman Martin made a motion to put the meeting back on schedule and the agenda, motion was second by Michael Gualtieri.
5. Correspondence:
- a. We wrote a letter to DEEP regarding Docko, stating that we (the commission) wanted to be kept in the loop of things and any changes to please advise. We received a letter from DEEP acknowledging our request. A letter from the Diversity Committee, they sent an email thanking us for assisting with their event.
6. 5. Harbor Master Report:
Michael Valentine, Harbor Master, was not present.

7. New Business:

- a. Alderman Braddock brought up kayaking on the east branch of Yantic Sunday morning, noticed a large tree that has fallen across the full width. It could cause someone to get trapped, Alderman Braddock to contact Public Works.

8. Old Business:

- a. CT Port Authority is functioning and had its monthly meeting in Norwalk last week of which they introduced their new Executive Director. He will be responsible for advancing the goals of the CT Port Authority and includes the grant for harbor infrastructures projects. The Port Authority has another staff person who operates out of the Economic and Community Development and this was the person who actually did administer the grant program. So the two of them are now developing the procedure for municipalities to apply for funds through this grant program. They had asked the Association of Harbor Commissions to provide and reach out to harbor commissions and provide list of the different towns with priority projects. Geoff Steadman to coordinate a meeting with the Harbor Management Commission to look at the Shipping Street area and discuss the possibility of funding (state funding) for the harbor project.
- b. Alderman Martin inquired with Public Works to find out how many events happened at the harbor this year. There was a list of over 16 events that took place, Gerry to forward the list for our next meeting.

9. Citizen Comment: None.

10. Other:

- a. Alderman Martin stated the harbor camera has hit a block - he has reached out to the vendor, the vendor reached out to the property owner and the property owner wanted to speak with Alderman Martin. Alderman Martin reached out to owner two times with no success and therefore, he contacted the vendor and was advised the owner was in South Africa. Project has stalled for now.

11. Adjournment:

On a motion to adjourn by Alderman Martin, seconded by Alderman Braddock, the Harbor Management Commission meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marixsa Romanella
Recording Secretary