

HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

The Harbor Management Commission Meeting of November 25, 2008 was held in the City Manager's Office. Mr. Aliano called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Attendance was as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Aliano, Chairman
Alderman Mark Bettencourt
Alderman Pete Desaulniers
Alan Bergren, City Manager
James Paulsen
Edward Seder

MEMBERS ABSENT

Richard Benoit

OTHERS PRESENT

Geoff Steadman, Harbor Management Consultant
Jim Harrison, Harbor Master
Mr. Seder's Daughter (accompanied father)
Stephen Chupaska, The Day

2. Determination of Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Alderman Bettencourt, seconded by Alderman Desaulniers, the minutes of the October 28, 2008 were unanimously approved.

4. Citizen Comment

None.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Harbor Master Report

Mr. Harrison reported that in connection with the sea wall project, he had received two calls that the large riprap had shifted and that some large rocks had fallen into the boat launch area. Mr. Aliano stated that he would speak to the Mr. Loyacano, Public Works Director, regarding this.

Mr. Aliano stated that several boats had withdrawn from the 350th Anniversary as a result of the declining economy. He stated that Mr. Harrison should meet with Dan McGuire, retired admiral, regarding the ships that will be coming into the harbor for the City's Semiseptcentennial this summer.

7. Old Business

a. Cadle Mill

City Manager Bergren stated that nothing new has been done there, however, he did hear that they are looking for a new developer for the project.

b. Community Boathouse/Boat Launch

No additional information at this time.

c. Harbor Management Plan Update – Mr. Steadman

Mr. Steadman reported the he has been speaking with the DEP over the last few weeks and that since November 3rd, anyone applying for permits relative to the waterfront, must come before the Harbor Management Commission for review. Mr. Steadman stated that the Commission needs to develop a checklist to be completed by the applicant. This application should prove to be in compliance with the Harbor Management Plan. Alderman Bettencourt suggested that the water dependent component be spelled out up front, as is major requirement of DEP with developing on the waterfront. He will work on the language for this form. It was agreed that these applications should become part of the Harbor Management Commission Agenda and reviewed at their regular monthly meeting. On a motion by Alderman Bettencourt, seconded by City Manager Bergren, the Commission voted unanimously to include Permit Applications as a new agenda item.

Mr. Aliano stated that this application be drafted and reviewed by Corporation Counsel for their interpretation. Mr. Steadman stated that it is the DEP's intention to cut down the time it currently takes in processing permits by establishing this application process. In addition, effective January 1, 2009, plans being submitted must have the stamped approval from a licensed engineering firm.

d. City Pier/City Dock/Seawall

Mr. Aliano reported that he would speak to Joe Loyacano tomorrow and get the status on this project and report back. Specifications received from the Public Works Dept., as requested by Mr. Seder, were presented and reviewed relative to the protective measures being taken for the safeguard of the steel being used for this project.

e. Yantic River Dredging Update

Mr. Steadman reported that he will be writing a letter to the DEP but must first get information pertain to the storm drains from the Norwich Public Utilities Department.

f. PRA Development/Marina Hotel Project - Update

Mr. Aliano will be inviting the developers back at some point in the future as planning proceeds to discuss permits/requirements, etc. The members inquired as to when they would be breaking ground for this project to which Mr. Aliano informed they are currently working on a 7-star hotel in Dubai, and the City is on their list of projects. The current financial lending market is also an attributing factor in the project.

8. New Business

None at this time.

9. Other

Mr. Seder inquired if the City ever holds any smelt runs in the river(s). Members did not believe this currently takes place. Mr. Aliano did report that the waters are in pretty good condition compared to years ago. Mr. Seder further inquired if the Commission is receiving enough money from the State to which Mr. Aliano responded definitely not. Mr. Steadman said there is money in the Harbor Management Association as he sees from the annual reports.

On a motion by Alderman Desaulniers, seconded by Alderman Bettencourt, the members agreed the Committee request from the Harbor Management Association the current status of the State Boating Account. All agreed the City should be entitled to their portion of funds that are generated and accumulated in this account.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by James Paulsen, seconded by Alderman Desaulniers, the Harbor Management Commission Meeting of November 25, 2008 was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

