

Mystic Harbor Management Commission
August 7, 2014 Minutes
Draft

The Mystic Harbor Management Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, July 7, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fourth District Voting Hall. Commission members present were: Chairman David Carreau, Don Procko, Lou Allyn, Rod Cook, Jack Washburn and Harbor Master Paul Watts. Paul Bates, Jeff Anderson, Bill Brissette, Harry Hartzell, Ben Tamsky, Dorothy Dunnington, George Dunnington, Thomas Norris, Nancy Lockwood, Holly Fowles, Michael Schultz, Mike Souza, Judith Flora, Dennis Regan, Robert Leger, and Christian McGugan were also present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., beginning with the Pledge Of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Allyn made a motion to accept the July 3, 2014 minutes. Mr. Cook seconded the motion and the Commission unanimously approved it.

Harbor Master Report - Steel Hulled Boat sunk in Mystic Harbor (Murphy)

Chairman Carreau requested comments from the public on this issue. Multiple questions regarding the state statues and procedures that could be used were presented. A 41-signature petition documenting these concerns was presented to the commission by Mr. George Dunnington. Christian McGugan of Gywenmor marina also recommended that citizens contact the state DEEP enforcement officer and request action.

Chairman Carreau then summarized the actions underway by the commission, the harbor master and the town. The latest was a meeting with the town attorneys who stated that it was paramount that: First, legal procedures be carried out to the letter of the law, Second, the boat owners rights as a private citizen have to be respected and Third, any action taken does not present a liability to the town. Also mentioned was the budget constraints that limit the actions of the town. This is being addressed by requesting a mooring fee increase so that issues in the river may be acted on locally. In the past such action was taken by volunteerism and the good will of local marina's that had been called upon to assist. The lack of funding has not allowed the commission or the harbor master to act in an efficient and timely manner.

Harbor master Watts then stated that he and the commission have been working on this issue for weeks. This includes his work with the Coast Guard, local police, and Mr. Murphy. Mr. Murphy's status as a waterfront property owner was confirmed. This may allow a limited size vessel to be moored in the shallow water in front of his property.

To move the legal process forward, a motion was made by chairman Carreau to support the harbor master to determine if the steel vessel is a derelict as outlined in the Connecticut Statute and if necessary, hire a marine surveyor to determine the condition and value of the vessel. Mr. Washburn seconded it. The commission approved it.

Chairman Carreau then suggested that a future removal plan be formulated.

Unfinished Business

Dredging of Federal Channel & Mystic Auxiliary Fairway Notices

The DEEP will fund the cost of the public notices for the project.

Mooring Removal Contract Selection

Bids have been received for removing moorings in the turning basin. Mr. Cook made a motion that the commission establish a committee for review so that the contractors information can remain private. Mr. Procko seconded it. The commission approved it.

Harbor Commission Budget

A vote to change the mooring fee from \$10.00 to \$50.00 will take place on Monday, August 11, 2014. This will provide the required time for the legal notice.

New Business

East Fairway Obstruction

The fairway needs to be swept to find any object that may have been abandoned.

COP DEEP-OLISP-APP-200 I-95 Mystic River Bridge Repair

A request to repair the I-95 Mystic River bridge span was presented to the Commission. Mr. Allyn made a motion that the commission does not object to the request and there are no inconsistencies with the Mystic Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Washburn seconded the motion. The commission approved it.

CT DEEP Form 101E, Brewers Yacht Yard Dock Modification

A dock modification for Brewers Yacht Yard was presented. Statements of concerned were expressed about the difficulties of larger vessels turning and navigating while approaching the railroad bridge. Further clarification will be obtained for the next regular meeting.

PZ 1412SUP & CAM Harry Austin Drive -

A plan for a new building was presented. Mr. Procko made a motion that the commission does not object to the request and there are no inconsistencies with the Mystic Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. The commission approved it.

Buoy - Can # 27 Mystic River

Harbor master Watts is requesting Can # 27 be moved 25 ft. to the west to help widen the channel. A motion was made by Mr. Allyn to co-sign a letter to the Coast Guard from Harbor master Watts. Mr. Procko seconded it. The commission approved it.

New State Statues regarding title of Vessels.

Mr. Bates of the Groton Harbor Commission presented a copy of the new state statues.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:55

Respectfully Submitted,

David Carreau - Chairman

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CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK