

DEC 16 AM 9:41

December 9, 2019

CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

The Waterfront Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting on this date at the Town Dock meeting room, Stonington, CT. Members present were Chairman Sandy Grimes, Stephanie Hayes-Houlihan, Ethan Grimes, Bob Guzzo and Mike Grimshaw. Also in attendance was First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough and Town Engineer Scot Deledda.

Alene Whipple was absent.

Chairman Grimes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Comments from the Public: None

Treasurer's Report: As of this date, the balance in the Waterfront Commission account is \$1,243.22. Mrs. Hayes-Houlihan made a motion to accept the report as read. Mr. Guzzo seconded, and voting was unanimous.

Previous Minutes: Mr. Grimshaw made a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting as presented. Mr. Ethan Grimes seconded, and voting was unanimous.

Old Business:

Dock Area Maintenance/Repairs:

Mr. Grimshaw stated that the repairs are ongoing and spoke with the carpenter today who noted that within the week he will be starting on the doors to the Gambardella building.

Mr. Sandy Grimes presented an invoice from H&H Marine Systems Ltd., for the balance due on the ice machine repairs. Mrs. Hayes-Houlihan made a motion to approve the payment of \$8,785.10 from the Wharfage Account directly. Mr. Guzzo seconded. Voting was unanimous.

Donahue Park:

Chairman Grimes informed Selectwoman Chesebrough that he had been speaking with Julie Holland of the Beautification Committee and she noted that the entrance sign to Donahue Park needs to be replaced and the Beautification Committee will be supplying new signage. Mr. Grimes asked Selectwoman Chesebrough if she could follow up with Public Works Director Barbara McKrell on the Committee's request to address the unsightly and weed overgrown gravel bed that is in the Donahue parking area. Suggestions included a liner or permeable fabric to deter the weeds or a rain garden, promoting a stormwater BMP. Chairman Grimes also asked Selectwoman Chesebrough if she could speak with Jim Lathrop, an adjacent property owner to the park, Maggie Jones, Stonington Tree Warden and Director McKrell regarding the removal of a dead tree and possibly two or three other trees. Currently one of the trees is blocking the park lighting, making the area dark and a suggestion of some type of planting that could replace the trees was presented. Selectwoman Chesebrough stated that she will speak with those involved in the Park and address the overgrown weeds and the lighting of the area.

Fuel Tank:

Mr. Guzzo noted that in discussions with Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, the Fishermen have agreed to installing an inground tank, smaller than the previous tank, but meets the Fishermen's needs and is less expensive than other proposals. Mr. Deledda concurred, stating that the confidence level is much

greater than during previous discussions and by going forward with a smaller tank in the same location, the cost can be reduced significantly. There is some funding available in addition to the funding available from the Fishermen and they and the Town are working together to define a cost share. Mr. Deledda stated this is a good approach that will represent a long-term solution and if the project keeps moving, everything could be situated before summertime activities. Mrs. Hayes-Houlihan did ask if the smaller tank could hinder a growth in the fleet in years to come and Mr. Grimshaw said it would not as they would only have to increase the fuel deliveries to the tank.

Mr. Deledda acknowledged that the Town is working with Mr. Plato Doundoulakis, LEP, Atlas Environmental who is filing the tank closure reporting with the State of CT and additional soil testing may be requested until the final approval from the State. With regards to a cost estimate, Mr. Deledda estimates \$250,000 is a reasonable figure which does include a buffer for additional LEP services and possible soil removal. There is approximately \$90,000 remaining in the budget.

Selectwoman Chesebrough inquired to when the fuel demand picks up and Mr. Guzzo noted the scallopers start in March and they see an increase in fuel demand then. Mr. Deledda inquired to other activities such as the Farmer's Market and the Blessing of the Fleet and noted that the Town was forecasting June as a completion date. Mr. Guzzo agreed that June is acceptable.

New Business:

South Pier Improvement - Stantec Final Design:

The unmaintained South Pier is battered by higher seas and is eroding. Mr. Deledda noted that the first public outreach meeting regarding the South Pier improvements in August outlined the various options ranging from do nothing to masonry repairs, concrete repairs, and steel sheet piling repairs. After that meeting, the consensus was that masonry repairs made the most sense for the Town. Since that time Mr. Bill Heipel, Project Manager at Stantec, has been working on a design for the South Pier. Mr. Deledda asked Mr. Heipel to share those designs with the Waterfront Commission this evening. Any comments or concerns would be considered and worked into the final design. The design has to be shovel ready and completed by the end of the year. A permit application with CT DEEP is also being sought by the end of the year.

Mr. Heipel showed preliminary designs to the Commission and offered the option of a concrete sea wall on the west end wall to be the most resilient improvement. This will be wherever it's needed and the stone is either failing or falling apart. On the new west end the failing sections will be deconstructed, taken down to mean low water and reconstructed with new rocks, minimizing voids with grout bags. In addition, Mr. Heipel suggested separating the mooring system from the Pier, which he feels is pulling on and disturbing the wall. The design has evolved with more concrete, tie backs and reinforcements systems built into what will visually look like the stone masonry construction option. Mr. Heipel further outlined suggestions and designs for moving forward. He estimates the total project to be upwards of \$6 million. Phases of the project and time frames were discussed and Mr. Grimshaw noted that a priority of the repair should be to address the area of the pier that has collapsed.

Mrs. Hayes-Houlihan made a motion that the Commission support as presented, option III, the semi-final design phase of the South Pier improvement project as presented by Stantec. Mr. Grimshaw seconded and voting was unanimous. The Commission thanked Mr. Heipel for his presentation and look forward to future discussions.

Selectwoman Chesebrough asked to informally float the idea of a new commission to the members, one that would look at the use of fertilizers on lawns and how that impacts the nitrogen levels in the waterways. Mr. Guzzo informed the Selectwoman discussion had recently taken place on contamination from lawn applications and how they make it into the Sound via the river and the impact the nitrogen levels have on lobster reproduction. Selectwoman Chesebrough suggested community meetings to educate residents on the concerns of fertilizers and the impact to our local waterways.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Grimshaw made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Guzzo seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink, one appearing to be 'JA' and the other a more stylized signature.

jas