

Mystic Harbor Management Commission
Minutes for Regular Meeting
March 7, 2019
FINAL

The Mystic Harbor Management Commission held a regular meeting on March 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fourth District Voting Hall. Members present were David Carreau (Chair), Lou Allyn, Rod Cook, Fred Allard, and Ken Scott. Also present were Harbormaster Don Procko, Katrina Bercaw (recording secretary), and guests Paul Bates, Keith Nielson, Elizabeth Copp Lebel, Kit Hartford, Waller Walker, Jeff Walker, Peter Kepple, Karin Whittemore, Cate Moffett, Amy Hallberg, Sarah Moore Hallberg, Dennis O'Brien, Deborah O'Brien, Frances Hoffman, Ann Harvey, Deborah Pryor, Hugh McGee, Kay Tower, Rob and Tory Christian, Carmen Martocchio and Renate Gleysteen.

Call to Order:

Chairman Carreau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the February 7, 2019, Regular Meeting were presented. Mr. Scott made a motion that the minutes be accepted. This was seconded by Mr. Allard and unanimously approved.

Harbormaster Procko:

Captain Dave Pickering of the Rhode Island Sea Scouts notified Harbormaster Procko that they will visit Mystic on August 12-24. (Approximately 12 vessels.) They were advised to anchor north of Mystic Seaport in Anchorage T-3. Deeper draft vessels may anchor in the natural channel for this occasion.

The MTA has launched a campaign to defeat the new Governor's proposed tax increases to the recreational boating industry. The increase would offset the reductions in tax made during the Malloy administration. Details are available.

Unfinished Business:

Pump-out Boat Funding: The Town of Stonington Finance Board proposed \$5,000 of the approximate \$20,000 requested. Chairman Carreau proposed that the Harbor Commission provide an additional \$5,000 to support this effort, even though it represents 40% of the annual income from moorings holders. (They are not the boaters that use the pump out service that often.) A remarkable recovery has been achieved from the river's polluted condition decades ago and we feel responsible for keeping it that way. Mr. Cook made a motion to provide \$5,000 to **Pete's Marine Services** toward the Pump out Boat financial situation which he has with the State of Connecticut. Mr. Allard seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. A better understanding of this situation must be established for next year.

COP - Second Boat Lift & Float - Morning Glory Manor, LLC, Masons Island: Chairman Carreau received over a dozen letters of protest in advance of the meeting, and more letters at the meeting. All objected to the proposed boat lift and dock extension. These letters were received from: Peter and Renate Gleysteen, Betsy Copp Lebel, Harold and Elizabeth White, Waller and Jeff Walker, Patricia B. Copp, Barbara and Jack Washburn, Tom and Linda Watkins, Frederick and Catherine Deichmann, Elizabeth Lord Danforth, Mary and William Carey, Cindy and Bob Martin, Peter Battles, Bill Pryor, Ann Harvey, Lisa and Craig MacDonnell, Carmen Martocchio and Mary Riley.

Keith Neilson of Docko, Inc., presented the project. Chairman Carreau stated relevant portions from page 13, under Aesthetic Impact, from the Mystic Harbor Management Plan which states: "Negative visual impact must be avoided". Also, "Visual access to the water should be maintained". In addition, "The scale of the proposed facility should be the minimum necessary to secure a legitimate water-related function." Renate Gleysteen of 25 Chippechaug Trail asked why the neighbors did not get notification of this proposal. Mr. Neilson explained that notification is a requirement for dredging and structures projects. However, notification is not required for a Certificate of Permission (COP). In this case, the proposed structure is within the footprint of the tie-off piles, which are out 20 feet from the present float. Ms. Gleysteen noted that COPs are to be used only for maintenance and minor modifications. This is not the case because of the magnitude of the project. Jeff Walker noted that large boat lifts impair the view, and that large boats should be in a mooring field. Mr. Martocchio does have a mooring off of his property. Kay Tower noted that this proposed boat lift would impair the view of multiple home owners. Several other neighbors spoke against the proposed project.

Mr. Martocchio stated that he had begun this request after a microburst damaged his boat at the dock. Under the circumstances he will not pursue the large lift, but will retain the two smaller boat lifts that were there when he bought the property. Also, he will pursue alternative designs to provide adequate dockage for his boat.

Docko, Inc., will send a letter to the DEEP noting that they are going through a redesign of this project. He will forward the new sketches and proposal to the Mystic Harbor Management Commission. Mr. Allyn will forward the new design, via email, to those who wrote letters or signed in at this meeting. The Mystic Harbor Management Commission will not take any action at this meeting. The matter will be revisited at the next Regular Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2019.

Speed Zone Signs for the East Fairway: The Harbormaster has made arrangements for installation.

Mystic Harbor Management Plan Review: Mr. Allard is proceeding with revisions.

Pier & Float Application - A. Maurice: No new information.

Marker Piles & "T - 3" Anchorage (North of Mystic Seaport): No new information.

Mystic River Park Support: No new information.

New Business:

COP: New Boat Lift - D. Wilson, 2 Plover Lane, Masons Is., Mystic, CT: Mr. Neilson presented the project. Mr. Scott made a motion to approve, as it is not inconsistent with the Mystic Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Note: It is requested that **electronic copies of all applications** be submitted to MysticHMC@gmail.com ten days before meetings so that they may be pre-reviewed by Commission members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:  David Carreau, Chairman