

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2022

A Meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) of the Town of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of Town Hall, 611 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT, and via teleconference.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kim Taylor, Chairwoman, Jacob Herschler, Doug Metchick, Bill Perugini; Sam Cargill; Jeff Warren; and Don Hyman. **ABSENT:** Eric Sundman **ALSO PRESENT:** Geoffrey Steadman, HMC Consultant; Jeff Engborg, Pequot Yacht Club (PYC) Manager; Bryan LeClerc, Harbor Master.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Chairwoman Taylor.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** MARCH 15, 2022: The minutes of March 15, 2022 were tabled to the April meeting.

**CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:** Chairwoman Taylor reported the following communications:

1. March 23, 2022 email from DEEP -- Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve Town of Fairfield application for permit for work to replace culverts and flap gates and waive requirement of public hearing – Chairwoman Taylor noted that this was out of HMC jurisdiction; and
2. March 25, 2022 meeting with Geoff Steadman and Milan Bull of CT Audubon re piping plover habitat at Fairfield Country Club and site of planned federal dredging project.

**HARBOR MASTER REPORT:** Mr. LeClerc: Harbor Master Bryan LeClerc reported that the installation of the USGS water quality monitoring instrument buoy is scheduled between May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>; the PYC is the vendor performing the installation on behalf of the USGS. All moorings are in place in the harbor; the riparian property owner who has submitted a priority application has been issued a mooring permit. A commercial fisherman who has requested a priority permit has not yet provided the documents required by the Mooring Rules and has been notified that he will be required to provide monthly catch reports and inspections throughout the summer. The Blessing of the Fleet is scheduled for Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**REPORT FROM MOORING CONTRACTOR:** Mr. Engborg, Manager PYC: Mr. Engborg reported that most all of the moorings have been installed; the 5mph buoys will be installed next week. The PYC is working with the USGS to install the monitoring buoy; this project is going smoothly and is on schedule. Following inquiry by Chairwoman Taylor, Mr. Engborg reported that the vessel owners who are moored in the location of the south wall are aware of the issue with boats drifting; larger anchors will be utilized to address this issue.

**NEW APPLICATIONS: NONE**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **LOWER WHARF PROJECT:** Mr. Steadman: Mr. Steadman reported that he is continuing to compile information the finance department needs to act on the request to re-purpose the CT Port Authority grant funds for the re-designed project. The Port Authority has no objection to the planned repurposing of the funds. New opportunities for grant awards will be issued soon by the Port Authority. Upon inquiry by Chairwoman Taylor for possible projects that may be considered for grant funds, Commissioner Herschler suggested that an electric charging station might be a possibility. Potential locations for this facility were discussed.

2. **SAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT:** Mr. Steadman: Mr. Steadman provided photographs showing the sand-spit where the federal dredging will occur and the location of potential piping plover nesting habitat. Mr. Steadman noted that he had visited the site on March 25, 2022 with Chairwoman Taylor and Milan Bull of the CT Audubon to assess the habitat. It appears that the last recorded nesting of the piping plover was eleven years ago; with the site being monitored since then by Mr. Bull. During the recent site visit opportunities for establishing additional nesting habitat were discussed. The feasibility of using the dredge sand to nourish beaches rather than having the Currituck take it offshore to nourish oyster habitat also was discussed. Information from the site visit will be provided to the ACOE.

3. **MOORING COMMITTEE:** Jac Herschler: Commissioner Herschler reported that the Mooring Committee had met on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Herschler noted that the Committee again discussed the role of the Deputy Harbor Master. There will be changes to the Online Mooring fees; these changes will not affect the HMC.

4. **PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE:** Chairwoman Taylor reported that the Committee had met recently, and had discussed the publicity plan and the narration effort by the high school students. Doug Metchick reported that he will meet with the team from the high school to advance the narration project.

5. **STATUS AND SCOPE OF HMC'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOWER WHARF:** Commissioner Cargill reported that he will be meeting with Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese to discuss the status and scope of the HMC's responsibility for this area. Mr. Steadman noted that there is no question that the HMC is in fact responsible for managing this area, although the responsibility for the beach area most recently acquired by the Town adjoining the Lower Wharf must be clarified

6. **HMC 2022-2023 BUDGET REQUEST:** Commissioner Cargill reported that the Board of Finance and Board of Selectman had both approved the budget request; RTM approval is also anticipated.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Publicity Plan: Mr. Hyman: The HMC discussed this at length, and Mr. Hyman noted the importance of a public relations plan, a draft of which was submitted electronically to the Plan Committee. The implementation of a public relations plan will increase community awareness of the role of the HMC.
2. Chairwoman Taylor noted that a Committee will be established for a Deputy Harbor Master search and welcomed volunteers; a job description will be drafted.

The HMC wished former Harbor Master Pat Carroll a wonderful 99<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, Jac Herschler ***moved***, and Don Hyman ***seconded*** to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

The audio recording can be found here: [Harbor Management Commission - 4/19/22 - YouTube](#)

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Gabriel