

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2022

A Meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) of the Town of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, June 21, 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; Bill Perugini; Eric Sundman; Jeff Warren and Don Hyman. **ABSENT:** Sam Cargill and Doug Metchick. **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: MAY 17, 2022. Item tabled to July meeting.

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

1. June 9 and June 16, 2022 emails to David Kelley, Director of IT and Merry Mao, Fairfield Webmaster requesting that hits to the links in the 2022 Southport Harbor Annual Report be monitored until June 27, 2022
2. June 11, 2022 email to Jack Iams, President of Sasquanaug and Robert Claiborne, President of Community Sailing, transmitting the 2022 Southport Harbor Annual Report.
3. June 16, 2022 email to Tim Bishop Director of Conservation; John Short, Chair of the Shellfish Commission; Tim Minahan, Manager of the Country Club of Fairfield; and Jeff Engborg, PYC Manager transmitting the 2022 Southport Harbor Annual Report

HARBOR SAFETY DRILL: Mr. Engborg: Jeff Engborg reported to the HMC that a Harbor Safety Drill was conducted on June 16, 2022. Participants included representatives from Fairfield Fire Department, EMT, PYC, Junior Sailing Association, Harbor Master, and others. Mr. Engborg provided the HMC with a video/slideshow presentation of the safety drill and explained the detailed process involved. Photos were provided by Geoff Steadman from an observation boat (owned and operated by Hugh Smith), and the event video was prepared by Mr. Engborg. It was the consensus of the HMC that this video presentation will be sent to the ACOE & DEEP to show the very important benefits of this drill, as well as the beneficial use and significance of the federal channel.

HARBOR MASTER REPORT: Mr. LeClerc: Harbor Master LeClerc reported that all available mooring locations have been assigned for the boating season; it was necessary to make one reassignment to the South Helix area. Sticker inspections are on-going; vessels moored out of place have been addressed; registration information for vessels at private docks is being obtained. The USGS buoy has been installed just outside the channel; the #7 marker has been replaced by the Coast Guard. The police department has addressed a boat speeding incident.

NEW APPLICATIONS: No new applications.

OLD BUSINESS:

LOWER WHARF PROJECT: Mr. Steadman: Mr. Steadman reported that he is continuing to finalize the documentation for the repurposing of the Port Authority funds, originally provided for dredging purposes, so that those funds may now be applied to repair of the Lower Wharf wall and replacement of the Lower Wharf piers. The Port Authority Project Manager is scheduled to meet with Mr. Steadman next week to discuss this matter.

SAND MANAGEMENT PROJECT: Mr. Steadman: Mr. Steadman reported that he has been in communication with Milan Bull of the CT Audubon Society. Mr. Bull has made another visit to the dredging site (sand spit) and observed no nesting piping plovers. Mr. Steadman reported that it is Mr. Bull's opinion that this site is not valuable habitat for the species and will provide a brief report stating his findings and opinion for the ACOE.

Among other matters concerning the dredging project, the ACOE must still determine ownership of the sand spit. Mr. Steadman will contact the ACOE to inquire about any additional information the ACOE real estate division may require in this regard.

MOORING COMMITTEE: Mr. Herschler: Jac Herschler advised the HMC that the Mooring Committee has not met since the last HMC meeting. The Mooring Committee is seeking to clarify matters concerning payment of mooring permit and tackle fees for boats tied to Perry Green. He will meet with Marina Manager Justin Cathcart to review what the Parks and Recreation Department charges and discuss whether any adjustments are necessary. Commissioner Herschler reported that following Town acquisition of the property and pursuant to the property deed, the Parks and Recreation Department has been responsible for managing use of Perry Green.

PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE: Chairwoman Taylor reported that the Committee will try to meet in August. Then they will re-visit the project to add narration and create smaller sections of the presentations currently on the HMC website. A decision in the Cohen vs. State of Connecticut DEEP matter concerning municipal harbor management authorities is anticipated soon and may impact the plan update efforts.

LOWER WHARF MEMORIAL BENCHES: Mr. Cargill & Mr. Sundman: Eric Sundman reported that he anticipates meeting with Commissioner Cargill next week, and a report being provided to the HMC at the July meeting.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Steadman reported that on July 6th a representative from DEEP is planning a site visit to the Kenzie's Point areas as part of DEEP's ongoing review of the dock application at 1143-1155 Sasco Hill Road; Chairwoman Taylor and the Chairman of the Shellfish Commission also will be in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS: Following inquiry by Commissioner Perugini regarding the Deputy Harbor Master search, Chairwoman Taylor noted that the search procedure will include placing a notice on the Town's website and perhaps including the notice in the First Selectwoman's weekly newsletter. A deadline for submitting resumes will be included.

Commissioner Sundman noted that Jackie Durrell had proclaimed June 21, 1991 as Howard Burr Day.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Jac Herschler *moved*, and Don Hyman *seconded* to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

The audio recording can be found here: [Harbor Management Commission 06/21/22 - YouTube](#)

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Gabriel