

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2023

A Meeting of the Harbor Management Commission (HMC) of the Town of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of Sullivan Independence Hall, 611 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT, and via teleconference.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kim Taylor, Chairwoman; Don Hyman; Doug Metchick; Jeff Warren; Eric Sundman; and Dave Henry. **ABSENT:** Jacob Herschler; Bill Perugini; Sam Cargill. **ALSO PRESENT:** Geoff Steadman, HMC Consultant; Jeff Engborg, Pequot Yacht Club (PYC) Manager; Bryan LeClerc, Harbor Master; John Dean, Deputy Harbor Master; Attorney Chris Russo; Devin Santa, RACE.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairwoman Taylor.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of the draft April 18, 2023 meeting minutes: Don Hyman *moved*, and Doug Metchick *seconded* to approve the draft meeting minutes of April 18, 2023 as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

The HMC congratulated John Dean on his appointment as Deputy Harbor Master.

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

1. April 19, 2023 Teri Brown, Grants Coordinator Fairfield, informing her that the HMC would not be pursuing a Port Security Grant for cameras at Ye Yacht Yard.
2. April 19, 2023 email to Tim Bishop, Fairfield Conservation Director and the Fairfield Shellfish Commission transmitting the language proposed by the HMC at its April 18 meeting for condition 5 of the DEEP permit for the pier at 1143 Sasco Hill Road.
3. April 26, 2023 email letter transmitting the names of John Dean, Curtis Miller, and Rob Powers to Governor Lamont for the position of Deputy Harbor Master and recommending the appointment of Mr. Dean.
4. April 26, 2023 email exchange with Christopher Russo attorney for the developer of the Sasco Hill Rd. property about the proposed language for condition 5 of the DEEP permit for the pier at 1143 Sasco Hill Road.
5. May 8, 2023 conversation with Josh LaBella, reporter for CT Post about COP application for Lower Wharf regarding Fairfield Patch and CT Post articles.
6. May 10, 2023 copied on an email between Devin Santa of RACE and Elisha Midyette of DEEP with questions to clarify dimensions and depths related to the COP application for the Lower Wharf repairs. *Chairwoman Taylor noted that she had subsequently received a copy of the COP issued by DEEP for the Lower Wharf repairs, and advised DEEP that Engineering Manager William Hurley should also receive a copy.*

**HARBOR MASTER REPORT:** Harbor Master Bryan LeClerc: Mr. LeClerc reported that all moorings are set; boats have been arriving daily. One boat became loose from its mooring and was recovered without any damage; all the new helix floats are in. Changes in mooring placements were made as necessary. It has been determined that the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to oversee the Perry Green moorings. Flare Day has been set for Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Harbor Master LeClerc thanked Don Hyman for the recent press release. The Blessing of the Fleet and Southport Street Parade are scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Chairwoman Taylor reported that the Town has applied to DEEP for a permit to make repairs at the Perry Green bulkhead. DEEP is interested in the number of moorings located off the Green. Currently there are 11 and Mr. Steadman will review the Harbor Management Plan for the relevant provisions.

**NEW APPLICATIONS:** No new applications

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**LOWER WHARF:** Mr. Steadman requested clarification on the COP issued by DEEP that does not give permission to rebuild the northern pier. It is his understanding that it was the HMC's intention to include this work in the COP application. Additional approval from DEEP will be needed to rebuild the northern pier; RACE will advise on the additional cost needed to amend or add to the COP issued by DEEP.

**REVISED LANGUAGE TO CONDITION 5 OF THE PERMIT FOR A FIXED PIER AT 1143 SASCO HILL ROAD:** Chairwoman Taylor noted that the HMC had sent an e-mail to Conservation Director Tim Bishop and Chairman of the Shellfish Commission with the proposed revisions last week and is awaiting a response. Attorney Chris Russo noted that he had met with the Shellfish Commission last week and provided proposed language for their consideration. Chairwoman Taylor stated that the HMC will review with the Shellfish Commission.

**SAND MANAGEMENT:** Discussions continue regarding the appropriate locations for placement of the dredged sand. The Engineering Department has surveyed Sasco Beach and determined that it does not need more sand. Mr. Steadman is working to schedule a site meeting with DEEP. The ACOE Real Estate Division is reviewing matters regarding the need for the ACOE to obtain an easement over Country Club of Fairfield property for equipment access to the dredging site.

**MOORING COMMITTEE:** In Mr. Herschler's absence, Chairwoman Taylor reported that the Mooring Committee had not met since the last HMC meeting.

**LOWER WHARF RISK ASSESSMENT:** Mr. Cargill and Mr. Sundman: Mr. Sundman noted that Commissioner Cargill is out of state at this time. Mr. Sundman has communicated with Risk Manager Peter Ritchie. The electrical box has been disconnected and removed from the Lower Wharf as a safety precaution; there is currently no power at this location. Discussions concerning appropriate signage are continuing. In conjunction with the risk management assessment, it seemed like a good idea for the HMC to establish some specific rules and regulations. Following considerable discussion, Chairwoman Taylor appointed Don Hyman, Sam Cargill and Eric Sundman as Committee members to recommend and draft rules and recommendations.

**COHEN V. DEEP UPDATE:** Mr. Steadman reported that although the Environment Committee did not move the bill forward that would have clarified questions about harbor management commission authority there are on-going discussions regarding the best way to achieve the needed legislative changes; Mr. Steadman will continue to keep the HMC apprised of developments.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Rules for Lower Wharf:** See Lower Wharf Risk Assessment above.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. HMC Consultant Geoffrey Steadman reported that he had attended a Sound Waters meeting regarding climate/science; Connecticut is one of the few states that has mandated climate science be taught in the schools. A curriculum is currently being established.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, Don Hyman *moved*, and Dog Metchick *seconded* a motion to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously*.

The audio recording can be found here: [Harbor Management Commission 05/16/23 - YouTube](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Gabriel