

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

The Fairfield Harbor Management Commission will hold a Public Meeting at 4:30 P.M. on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 via Conference Call Bridge and in person at Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT 06824

Members of the Public: To listen by Phone, Call 669 275-1384

Please Note: If you call to listen, you will not be heard by the Commission members and there will be no live public comment until called for by the Chair during the meeting. The public is encouraged to email their comments before the meeting to: HMC@fairfieldct.org

**Fairfield Harbor Management Commission Meeting
January 16, 2024
4:30 p.m.**

**In person at Sullivan Independence Hall
725 Old Post Road, Fairfield
1st Floor Conference Room
via Conference Call Bridge at 669 275-1384**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dec. 19, 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

1. Dec. 22, 2023 e-mail conversation with Town Attorney Philip Pires, Risk Manager Peter Ritchey, Parks and Recreation Director Anthony Calabrese reviewing revised content of planned Lower Wharf Rules and Regulation sign per Dec. 19 meeting of HMC. An additionally revised version resulted and was approved to share and discuss with HMC on Jan. 16. Mr. Pires, Mr. Ritchey and Mr. Calabrese have been invited to attend for in person discussion with HMC members. On Jan. 8 the revised sign also was presented to Sasquanaug Association President Laura Becker Lawlor and was favorably received. Ms. Lawlor has also been invited to attend Jan. 16's HMC meeting.
2. Dec. 26, 2023 email conversation with State Sen. Tony Hwang asking for a meeting to discuss obtaining his support for accelerating action on a pending SHIPP grant application for funding to repair Lower Wharf. This was a follow-up to a meeting with state Rep. Jennifer Leeper on Dec. 15 with the same goal. Both meetings were suggested to the chair by Selectwoman Christine Vitale to address the funding decision delays at Connecticut Port Authority. On Jan. 5 Sen. Hwang organized a Zoom meeting which led to his commitment to try and accelerate the process. The Zoom meeting was attended by Don Hyman, Geoff Steadman, Bill Perugini and Kim Taylor. Rep. Leeper advised she also was working to both identify new or additional grant sources and accelerate decision making at Connecticut Port Authority.

3. Jan. 5, 2024 email conversation with Town Planning and Zoning Director Jim Wendt confirming that once land use plans are received for the former Exide Battery site on Post Road, the plans would be referred to the HMC for a Coastal Site Plan review to determine any possible impact on the Harbor Management Area. Mr. Wendt confirmed that the landowner had signed a lease with the Penske Group to develop a Porsche dealership on the site but no land use plans had yet been filed.
4. Jan.9, 2024 Kim Taylor called to advise she would be advising the Country Club of Fairfield that a federal Environmental Assessment regarding the planned dredging of Southport Harbor would soon be filed and publicly available in the course of normal procedure by the ACOE per ACOE project manager Coral Siligato.
5. Jan. 9, 2024 advised in response to a query that both Town Engineering Manager Bill Hurley and Christine Brown, Chief of Staff of First Selectman Bill Gerber, confirm that RTM and other town government panels have approved spending approximately \$180,000 or 20% of the estimated \$800,000 cost for repair and replacement of the pier at Lower Wharf if grant money is provided to cover the balance.

HARBOR MASTER REPORT: Mr. LeClerc

NEW APPLICATIONS: No new applications received.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Lower Wharf Repairs: Mr. Steadman
2. Lower Wharf SHIPP Grant Refund: Mr. Steadman
3. Lower Wharf Risk and Rules and Regulation Sign; Commissioner Discussion & Vote to Accept: Mr. Hyman and Mr. Harris
4. Sand Management: Mr. Steadman
5. Mooring Committee: Mr. Warren
6. HMC FY24-25 Budget Request- Status: Mr. Hyman

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Historic marker signage at Lower Wharf: A potential development concept in collaboration with the Sasquanaug Association and the Fairfield Museum.
2. Committee Appointments

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURN

All members of the Harbor Management Commission are requested to notify the Chairman and Recording Secretary if they are unable to attend. A quorum is necessary to transact business.