

Harbor Management Commission Mooring Committee

March 8, 2022

The Harbor Management Commission's Mooring Committee met in Sullivan Independence Hall on March 8, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Attending: Kim Taylor, Jac Herschler, Bill Perugini, Geoff Steadman, and Harbor Master Bryan Bryan LeClerc.

Harbor Master Bryan LeClerc reported the annual mooring permit renewal and waiting list renewal process was running smoothly using the Online Mooring system. He projected that there will be six vacant mooring locations to be assigned for the 2022 boating season. Two of the six will be used to reassign boaters whose South Wall mooring locations were recently found to be encroaching on the Federal Navigation Channel, leaving four locations to be assigned from the Waiting List this Spring.

Harbor Master LeClerc informed the Committee that 20 people on the Waiting List have not renewed and he will be following up with those people to ensure they do not intend to renew their position on the Waiting List. He also noted that the Online Mooring system does not currently inform him if any system-generated emails "bounce" because the address in the system is not valid. He is pursuing this with staff at Online Mooring.

Harbor Master LeClerc informed the Committee about his plans for two priority mooring assignment requests – one asserting riparian rights priority assignment and the other asserting special consideration for assignment because he is a commercial fisherman.

The Harbor Master reported that he has advised Mr. Galpin, a former applicant on the Waiting List, that he cannot be reinstated on the Waiting List in the position he formerly held, but he is welcome to submit a new Waiting List application to be added to the Waiting List.

Harbor Master LeClerc advised the Committee that the USGS will be placing two water quality monitoring devices at Pequot Yacht Club, one device just outside the Federal Navigation Channel immediately outside the inner harbor, and one device under the Pequot Avenue bridge over Sasco Brook.

The Harbor Master reported that he inspected the tackle for North Anchorage moorings with staff at Pequot Yacht Club which is the zone of harbor mooring tackle scheduled for inspection this year. He reported that PYC is very cautious and well organized in performing this important safety function.

The Committee discussed the idea of creating and staffing a Deputy Harbor Master position for Fairfield. Jac Herschler indicated the primary reason to have a deputy in place would be to ensure there would not be a gap in the future where there was nobody authorized by the Governor to perform the responsibilities of the Harbor Master. He noted that a vacancy during the annual permit processing season would be very disruptive. After discussion, the consensus of the Committee was to recommend creating and staffing a Deputy Harbor Master position for Fairfield to the full Harbor Management Commission at the March regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.