

MAYOR
DAVID R. MARTIN



CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN
DR DAMIAN ORTELLI

VICE CHAIRMAN
RAYMOND L. REDNISS

SECRETARY/TREASURER
ROBERT M. KARP

PAUL ADELBERG
JEFFERY SAUNDERS
ROBERT J. STRADA
GRIFFITH H. TROW

STEVEN M. LOEB, ALTERNATE
MICHAEL PENSIERO, ALTERNATE

April 28, 2015

Mr. Norman Cole
Land Use Bureau Chief
Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Blvd.
Stamford, CT 06901

Subject: CSPR 975 by Mill River Park Collaborative for work adjoining the Stamford Harbor Management Area

Dear Mr. Cole:

The Stamford Harbor Management Commission (SHMC) has reviewed the application for Coastal Site Plan Review submitted to the Land Use Bureau by the Mill River Park Collaborative (the Applicant). The Applicant seeks to construct a carousel pavilion and riverfront porch with benches, tables, and a shade canopy and conduct other site improvements in Mill River Park at the southeast corner of the intersection of West Broad and Mill River streets.

As the Applicant's proposal affects property on, in, or contiguous to the Stamford Harbor Management Area, it is subject to review by the SHMC to determine its consistency with the Stamford Harbor Management Plan. The requirements of this review are specified in Sec. 22a-113p of the Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 6-62 of the Stamford Code of Ordinances, and the Harbor Management Plan. Pursuant to the General Statutes, City Code, and Harbor Management Plan, a 2/3 vote of all members of the Zoning Board is needed to approve a proposal that has not received a favorable recommendation from the SHMC.

During its meeting on March 17, 2015, the SHMC approved a motion to find the proposal consistent with the Harbor Management Plan provided: a) the Applicant is required to employ all appropriate best management practices during construction to avoid any significant adverse impacts on environmental quality, including water quality, in the Harbor Management Area; and b) the Stamford Engineering Department determines that the proposed project will not cause any significant adverse storm-water impacts in the Mill River, including any increased sedimentation.

In addition, the SHMC moved to transmit the following comments to the Land Use Bureau and Applicant.

Comments:

1. The tidally influenced part of the Mill River adjoining Mill River Park is part of the Stamford Harbor Management Area and subject to the jurisdiction of the SHMC and Harbor Management Plan.
2. Previously, the SHMC expressed concerns to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Mill River Collaborative about the potential downstream effects of the Mill River restoration project on downstream conditions in the west branch of Stamford Harbor, including, but not limited to, the potential effects of increased sedimentation rates in the federal navigation channel.
3. The Harbor Management Plan supports the provision of well-designed facilities and amenities to increase public use and enjoyment of the Stamford Harbor Management Area, including facilities and amenities at Mill River Park.
4. The Applicant's drainage calculations indicate that the proposed project will increase the amount of impervious area at the site. As a result, the SHMC is concerned about potential storm-water impacts in the Mill River.

Please be advised that the SHMC reserves its right to review the Applicants' proposal and provide additional comments at such time as it may be modified or be the subject of another application, additional information is provided, or the proposal is the subject of a public hearing.

If you have any questions or require any additional information at this time, please contact me at (315) 651-0070 or dortelli@stamfordct.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Damian Ortelli
Chairman, Stamford Harbor Management Commission

cc:
Frank Fedeli, Stamford Office of Operations

Kristal Kallenberg, CT DEEP, Office of Long Island Sound Programs
Griffith Trow, Chairman, SHMC Application Review Committee
Mill River Collaborative