



CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

STAMFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT & SHELLFISH
COMMISSION

Scheduled SHMC meeting on 12/19/2023 via Zoom; called to order at 6:33 PM - Chairman Ortelli presiding.

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Dr. Damian Ortelli, Chairman; Commissioners: Paul Adelberg; Sam Abernethy; Robert Karp; Mike Pensiero and Russ Hollander, Alternate.

Staff: Yale Greenman, Harbor Master; Frank Baldassare, Marina COS; Geoff Steadman, Consultant (Arrived at 7:05 p.m.); and Lesley Capp, Recorder.

Absent: Commissioner Ray Redniss, William Malloy, III; Sgt. Kevin Fitzgibbons, Stamford Police Dept.; Frank Fumega, Deputy Harbor Master; Captain Eric Knott, Online Mooring; Scott Denise, Assistant Marina Supervisor, COS and Maria Vazquez-Goncalves, Administration Account Clerk.

Note: Mr. Hollander was in attendance but due to technical difficulties was not able to unmute to speak. Near the end of the meeting, Dr. Ortelli called Mr. Hollander and had him on speaker.

a) Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- **Commissioner Adelberg moved to approve November 28, 2023 minutes.**
- **Commissioner Abernethy seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

b) Chairman's Report:

1. Brief update on HMC/SMC uncoupling.
2. Shellfish Beds Opening: The annual request to open the restricted relays areas and the prohibited beds in the east and west branch for three weeks starting ASAP. I also asked that the Westcott Cove and Cove Beach areas be opened. The beds will remain open until January 31, 2024.

c) Staff Reports

HMP Review & Financial Review:

- Mr. Baldassare provided the Financial Report for November 1 - 30, 2023.
- Marine doing well. Have a meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 21, 2023. Heard from Kevin Murray, Director Parks & Recreation, that the money for the boat has been approved and budgeted.
- Building new lifeguard chairs and some fingers. Weather permitting, will be moving fingers from the docks that will be closed to the one that will remain open.
- 2022 Harborfest payment being processed.

- Cove Marina Update: Three docks will be shut down - C, D & G. Keeping E Dock open. Will discuss at meeting on Thursday. Hoping to keep 60-65% of the docks open. Fourteen (14) pilings to be replaced.

Harbor Master:

- Yale Greenman reported harbor traffic slow.
- Reported oil on the water in the West Branch after the storm on Sunday/Monday. Assumed it came from the runoff from the storm drains and that someone has been dumping in the drains. Booms were supposed to be placed around the drains in order to collect, analyze and stop it but unfortunately, that did not happen. (Note: Mr. Steadman provided further details on the issue of oil on the water in the West Branch after arriving at the meeting.)
- Update on repowering the harbor boat.

Dr. Ortelli stated that O&G has offered to repower our boat. O&G will be paying for the work and the unit and will not have to pay taxes. Dockside Marine has the unit. Dr. Ortelli asked how the work will be done and Mr. Greenman provided details of the repair.

Richard Warren, Assistant Vice President, Facilities, O&G, provided additional details on the repair.

- Request for a page on the website.

Safety:

- Mr. Pensiero stated that Safety did not meet.

d) Old Business:

1. Harbor User Fees Status Report. No new information.
2. Brief update on Strada Memorial Bench.
3. Boat Ramp Feasibility RFP Status Report.
Mr. Steadman provided an update.
4. CHMA/Bill 5614 Status Report.
Mr. Steadman provided an update.
5. Cove Island Marina Status Report. Spoke about earlier in the meeting.
6. Holiday Celebration Dinner: To be held January 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.
7. Gathering of Shellfish Commissions is February 3, 2024.

e) New Business as may properly come before the Commission:

1. Nomination and Elections of Officers and Committee Chairs.

Dr. Ortelli called for recommendations for the Subcommittees.

Dr. Ortelli felt that Mr. Hollander should remain as Committee Chair of Marina and Safety.

Mr. Abernethy should be Chair of the ARC.

Mr. Karp nominated Mr. Abernathy for Chair of Applications.

Mr. Abernethy accepted the nomination and thanked Mr. Karp for his service.

Mr. Pensiero recommended running through the slate then making a motion to approve all the nominations. Dr. Ortelli agreed.

Dr. Ortelli stated the nominations as follows:

Commissioner Abernethy as Chair of ARC.
Commissioner Hollander for Safety & Marinas.
Commissioner Pensiero remains Secretary.
Commissioner Karp as Vice Chair.
Dr. Ortelli remains as Chair.

- **Commissioner Adelberg made a motion to accept the slate as submitted.**
- **Commissioner Abernethy Seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

Note: Geoff Steadman joined the meeting. (7:05 p.m.) Mr. Steadman provided information on Boat Ramp Feasibility RFP, CHMA/Bill 5614 and the problem of oil on the water at the West Branch.

Dr. Ortelli stated that he still has not received the invitation for the gathering of Shellfish Commissions on February 3, 2024.

Dr. Ortelli asked Mr. Karp to go through the applications.

f) Committee Reports:

Applications: Commissioner Karp: Harbor Management Plan and Financial Review; Marina Committee; Safety.

CT DEEP LWRD License Application - (Race Coastal Engineering) Timberline Structures, LTD, 247 Davenport Avenue, Stamford, CT:

The applicant is proposing work that includes construction of new access stairs behind and through the existing seawall to provide access to the adjoining beach. The applicant is also proposing to construct a timber pier, aluminum gangway, and float. Property is located within the CAM boundary.

- **Commissioner Adelberg moved to accept the ARC recommendation of consistency with the Harbor Management Plan provided any issues concerning littoral rights conflicts are identified and properly addressed in the review process and comments from any affected property owners are received and properly addressed prior to DEEP's decisions on the proposals.**
- **Commissioner Pensiero seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

CT DEEP LWRD License Application - (Coastline Consulting & Development, LLC,) City of Stamford, Cove Island Marina, 1125 Cove Road, Stamford, CT:

The applicant is proposing maintenance dredging to restore the Cove Island Marina basin and channel with disposal of the dredged material, determined to be unsuitable for disposal in Long Island Sound, at an out of state upland facility that processes dredged material.

- **Commissioner Adelberg moved to accept the ARC recommendation of consistency with the Harbor Management Plan with reference to the Harbor Management Plan policies supporting maintenance and enhancement of the Cove Island Marina as a focal point for public boating access to the Harbor Management Area and with reference to the Plan policies concerning support for environmentally sound maintenance dredging.**
- **Commissioner Pensiero seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

Referral of CSPR 1182 - Justin & Malaika Myers, 88 Kenilworth Drive West, Stamford, CT:

The Applicant is proposing a new 2-story addition off the rear side of the dwelling. The property is located in within the CAM boundary. The proposal also includes storm water retention system and water quality improvements.

- **Commissioner Adelberg moved to accept the ARC recommendation of a finding of consistency with the Harbor Management Plan with the understanding that the proposed project is expected to result in a significant improvement in storm water and water quality conditions on the site.**
- **Commissioner Pensiero seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

Referral of CSPR 1183 - Vanderson DiGesu, 30 Woolsey Road, Stamford, CT:

The applicant is proposing to increase a second floor over the garage, install two 125-gallon propane tanks and renovate several areas within the dwelling. The property is located within the CAM boundary.

- **Commissioner Adelberg moved to accept the ARC recommendation of no objection insofar as the proposal is expected to have no significant impact on the Harbor Management Area.**
- **Commissioner Abernethy seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

Referral of CSPR 1184 - Herbert F. Gretz, 45 Sagamore Road, Stamford, CT:

The applicant is proposing the installation of an in-ground swimming pool, terrace, retractable pergola, various retaining walls, an outdoor fireplace and kitchen. The property is located within the CAM boundary. The proposed project was previously review by the Harbor Management Commission but was never constructed. The application is coming before the Harbor Management Commission again and is much the same as previously reviewed by the Commission. There was a finding of No Objection.

Mr. Steadman stated that this was a Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) variance that had expired and the applicants are required to go through the process again and were not proposing anything different.

Dr. Ortelli found the original information of CSPR 1145 which was heard at the June 21, 2022.

The Commission had some conversation regarding the ZBA variance and the Commission's prior review and vote.

- **Commissioner Adelberg moved to accept the ARC recommendation of the same finding as previously provided with the understanding that the proposed project is the same as previously reviewed.**
- **Commissioner Abernethy seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

Referral of CSPR 1185 - Jeff Sibilio, 29 Waterbury Avenue, Stamford, CT:

The applicant is proposing to add a second and third floor to an existing residential structure.

- **Commissioner Adelberg moved to accept the ARC recommendation of no objection insofar as the proposal is expected to have no significant impact on the Harbor Management Area.**
- **Commissioner Abernethy seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

Mr. Steadman mentioned the status of the Ralsey Road public access appeal of the Zoning Board's decision. The Commission had a brief discussion about the lawsuit.

g) Staff Reports (Con't):

Marina:

- Mr. Hollander asked Mr. Steadman to provide an update on the Engineering Study with Erin McKenna, Senior Planner, Land Use Bureau. Note: Mr. Steadman provided an update earlier in the meeting.
- Meeting on January 12, 2024 with Frank Petise, Transportation Bureau Chief, regarding traffic calming in the harbor.

h) Public Participation:

1. Mr. Warren stated that O&G has been tasked to dredge the Canal Plant and the Davenport Street Plant for next winter season. Possibly reach out to Race for assistance.

i) Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

j) Adjournment.

- **Commissioner Adelberg made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.**
- **Commissioner Karp seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

cc: Mayor Caroline Simmons; Director Matthew Quinones; Director Louis DeRubeis; Samuel Abernethy; Paul Adelberg; Frank Baldassarre; Russ Hollander; Robert Karp; William Malloy Jr.; Kevin Murray; Sergeant Kevin Fitzgibbon; Dr. Damian Ortelli; Michael Pensiero; Ray Redniss; Anthony Rubino; Tracy Donoghue-Board of Finance; Richard Warren; Board of Representatives-Post; Town Clerk-Post; Building Manager-Post; Harbor Master.