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CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT  
**STAMFORD HARBOR MANAGEMENT &  
SHELLFISH COMMISSION**

Scheduled SHMC meeting on 02/20/2024 via Zoom; called to order at 6:32 PM - Chairman Ortelli presiding.

**In Attendance:**

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

Staff: Frank Baldassare, Marina COS; Geoff Steadman, Consultant (Arrived at 7:01 p.m.); and Maria Vazquez-Goncalves, Recorder.

Absent: Commissioners Ray Redniss, William Malloy III; Sgt. Kevin Fitzgibbons, Stamford Police Dept.; Yale Greenman, Harbor Master; Frank Fumega, Deputy Harbor Master; Captain Eric Knott, Online Mooring; Scott Denise, Assistant Marina Supervisor, COS.

**1. Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

- **Commissioner Adelberg moved to approve January 16, 2024, minutes.**
- **Commissioner Pensiero seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

**2. Chairman's Report:**

- a. Lou Casolo, COS-City Engineer, Erin McKenna, Land-Use Bureau, and Dan Ciaramicoli, Tighe & Bond, Designers of the Boat Ramp, began at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the West Beach Boat Ramp.
- Mr. Casolo reported that the boat ramp project began in May 2023 and was completed in December 2023. It included improvements called for in the 2015 Waterfront Planning Study prepared by RACE Engineers. The ramp was widened and modified for use at low water; additional upland area for trailer parking was provided; entranceway improvements were constructed; new timber pilings and floating docks added; and approximately 2,800 cubic yards of sediment were dredged. Views of pre- and post-construction conditions were shared.
  - There was discussion concerning use of the ramp during flood conditions. The ramp can function during most conditions but there will be times of the year when access to the ramp is not possible due to flood conditions usually associated with extreme weather events. Mr. Ciaramicoli estimated that based on historical records it may be expected that the ramp will not be usable due to abnormally high water approximately nine times during the year.
  - Mr. Casolo reported that the project was not designed to make the launch ramp

accessible during periods of extremely high water and to do so would have added substantially to the project cost and the need for additional regulatory approvals.

- It was noted that as a condition of Zoning Board approval in 2016 to establish a boat storage area on Magee Avenue, the developer/permittee was required to provide \$450,000 toward improvement of the West Beach boat ramp. Ms. McKenna reported that such funds have not been provided to date. Commissioners agreed to research this matter.
- b. Update on HMC/SMC responsibilities. Chairman Ortelli discussed forming a subcommittee of the HMC to focus on shellfish management. It was reported that Frank Fedeli was interested in participating.
- c. Discussion of Bureau of Aquaculture Shellfish Bed Changes. As of January 1, 2024, the waters of outer Cove Harbor are reclassified from restricted to approved.
- d. SoundWaters will be attending next month's meeting. They also invited any member of the HMC/SMC to join them for a tour of their Kelp Farming Site, date to be determined.
- e. Long Island Sound Blue Plan quarterly meeting will take place on February 29, 2024, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. via zoom. If you are interested, please register in advance via <https://ctdeep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAudO2orTooG9yxMFQ4DirKjOgSxYToRugK>.

### 3. Committee Reports:

#### **Marina & Safety Committee:** Commissioner Hollander

- a. Mr. Hollander invited Lou DeRubeis, Director of Safety, Health & Welfare, to present the Annual State of the Harbor Report at the March meeting.
- b. Mr. Hollander stated he spoke with Erin McKenna, Senior Planner, Land-Use Bureau, regarding the next steps required to engage RACE Engineering to perform the tabletop Harbor Ramp Feasibility Study.
- c. Mr. Hollander also worked with Geoff Steadman to further define the scope of work and gauge sentiment to “limiting our scope to the circumference of Kosciusko Park, focusing in particular in the areas circled in red, and on Czescik, inclusive of the area adjacent to/immediately north of A Dock as delineated in our initial proposal.”
  - **Commissioner Pensiero moved to approve the scope of work to limit the area of study to the circumference of Kosciusko Park, focusing in particular in the areas circled in red, and on Czescik, inclusive of the area adjacent to/immediately north of A Dock as delineated in our initial proposal.**
  - **Commissioner Adelberg seconded the motion.**
  - **Unanimously approved.**
- d. Reported on conversations with Bob Etter, Seven Seas Cruising Association, regarding Long Island Sound as a test site for the newest Predict Wind integrated weather stations' installation in high traffic boating areas to provide wind speed, direction, temperature, tides, and currents to the sailing community via Predict Winds' observation station website.
- e. Reported on a conference call with Gary Kalan (Stamford Light House Project), Bob Etter & Luis Soltero (PW Data Hub/Developer), and Jon Bilger (Predict Wind/Alinghi Forecasting Americas Cup), to explore both interest and viability of such a project and how a relationship with Predict Wind might enhance lighthouse awareness and create revenue opportunities for the restoration and ongoing maintenance of the lighthouse while adding significant value to the SHMC harbor safety.
- f. Gary Kalan introduced the Committee to Tim Canary, SVP NBC Sports, to begin coordinating efforts to bring high speed internet to the Lighthouse and Harbor.
- g. Reported the Marina Committee is ongoing with its survey of all marinas and site maps.

**Applications Review Committee (ARC):** Commissioner Abernethy

**Referral of CSPR 1187 – Howard Novick, 190 Davenport Drive, Stamford, CT:**

The Applicant is proposing to complete an existing seawall. Property is located within the CAM boundary.

- **Commissioner Adelberg moved to accept the ARC recommendation of consistency with the Harbor Management Plan which supports timely repair and maintenance of existing shore protection structures needed to protect existing development and provided no issues are raised during the DEEP review process and with the understandings that the SHMC reserves its right to provide additional comments during the CSPR process and: 1) all proposed work will be conducted within the original footprint of the existing wall; 2) DEEP has not issued a Notice of Violation to the Applicant; and 3) best management practices will be employed during construction to ensure no adverse impacts on environmental quality in the Harbor Management Area.**
- **Commissioner Pensiero seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

**CT DEEP LWRD License Application Pre-Submission Consultation Form, Shellfish Commission - (James J. Bajek, LLC) John M. Ciuffo, 76 Sea Beach Drive, Stamford, CT:**

The applicant is proposing a recreational dock modification. The documents were mistakenly mailed to the Government Center and were not available at the ARC meeting on January 3, 2024. This item will be reviewed at the next SHMC meeting.

- **Commissioner Adelberg moved to accept the ARC recommendation of no objection to the pre-submission plans being included in a permit application to DEEP with the understanding that the SHMC reserves its right to provide additional comments during the DEEP review process.**
- **Commissioner Pensiero seconded the motion.**
- **Unanimously approved.**

Discussion regarding streamlining the SHMC letters submitted to the Zoning Board.

Next scheduled ARC meeting is Monday, March 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

**4. Staff Reports:**

**Financial:**

- Mr. Baldassare reported the ending balance as of 1/31/24 of \$219,150.02.
- Mr. Baldassare will review & produce the invoice for O&G, Sprague, Rubino and shellfish beds.

**Harbor Master:** No report

**5. Old Business:**

- a. Harbor User Fees Status update.
- b. Strada Memorial Bench Status: plaque ready and unveiling to be completed in the spring.

- c. Boat Ramp Feasibility RFP Status Report. Updated during Marina & Safety Committee.
- d. CHMA/Bill 5614 Status Report.
- e. Update on the Cove Island Marina.
- f. Consultant Steadman updated on the Harbor Management Plan Review.
- g. Consultant Steadman reported on the Gathering of Shellfish Commission that was held on February 3, 2024.
- h. Update on the HMC contribution to the SPD jet ski initiative.

## **6. New Business:**

No New Business.

## **7. Public Participation.**

Mareen Boylan commented on her concerns regarding the West Beach boat ramp, including concerns that it is not usable during flood conditions.

## **8. Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**

## **9. Adjournment.**

- **Commissioner Karp made a motion to adjourn at 9:23 p.m.**
- **Commissioner Hollander 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.