

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Alan Kibbe, Chairman; Jeff Mangels; Laurie Jones; John Pinto; Chris White; Matt Gifford; Chris MacDonnell

STAFF: Amelia Williams

OTHER: Bruce Lovallo, Harbor Master; James Bajek; Justin Bisceglie; Steven Bartush, Shellfish Commission; John Hiltz; Steven Kleppin, Planning & Zoning

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Chairman Kibbe called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. There was a quorum present.

ROLL CALL

A roll call of those present was performed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – THE CHAIR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO LIMIT PUBLIC COMMENT TO 3 MINUTES.
COMMENTS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO ITEMS ON THE MEETING AGENDA.**

There was no public comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: OCTOBER 25, 2023

**** MR. GIFFORD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2023 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** DR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPLICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – DR. PINTO

**132 SOUTH WATER STREET, CERTIFICATE OF PERMISSION: THE APPLICANT (132 WATER STREET LLC)
PROPOSES TO RECONFIGURE MARINA FINGER FLOATS AND A BULKHEAD FLOAT TO ENHANCE SAFETY
DURING THE MOORING OF BOATS ALONG THE SHORELINE.**

This item was handled out of order. The proposed improvements will include the following changes:

- Extend a 4' by 190' float to a 5' by 204' float along the southern property boundary.
- Reposition 6 3' by 28' finger floats.
- Convert a T-shaped float to a 4' by 28' and 4' by 29' L-shaped float with pilings at the end of each float.
- On the western side of the basin a 5' by 90' float will be expanded to a 5' by 95' float.
- Along the norther basin a 5' by 135' float will be installed adjacent to the bulkhead.

- The work will require a barge and crane and pile-drivers and workboats.

The application and plans were provided for review. Mr. Hilts came forward to discuss this item. The property has a new owner which he provided information on. Discussion followed regarding reviewing the plans for the improvements. The new dock will not encroach on other properties. Dr. Pinto said that standard verbiage/conditions such as ensuring debris does not end up in the Sound would apply. A post-construction survey will be required.

**** MR. GIFFORD MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 132 SOUTH WATER STREET, CERTIFICATE OF PERMISSION: THE APPLICANT (132 WATER STREET LLC) PROPOSES TO RECONFIGURE MARINA FINGER FLOATS AND A BULKHEAD FLOAT TO ENHANCE SAFETY DURING THE MOORING OF BOATS ALONG THE SHORELINE.**

**** MR. KIBBE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Discussion followed regarding the application of standard language.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH SIX (6) (KIBBE, MANGELS, JONES, PINTO, GIFFORD, MACDONNELL) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (WHITE).**

7 EDGEWATER PLACE KELP FARM PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION: THE APPLICANT (NORM BLOOM & SON) PLANS TO ESTABLISH A SUGAR KELP SEAWEED AQUACULTURE FARM (2016-SW#3) NEAR SHEFFIELD ISLAND.

- The proposed farm will consist of two identical geared deployments, 600' by 450'.
- Each deployment will have 8 500' long lines orientated east and west.
- The lines will be anchored at both ends and midpoint using 500 lbs. mushroom anchors which will be chained to surface floats.
- There will be 8 12" buoys and 3 24" buoys placed evenly for support.
- The lines will be at a depth of 3-5' below the surface area.
- There will be boating safety markers at each corner of the area and at the half-way points along the perimeter.

Dr. Pinto said that the application had come up several years prior and had been approved previously. Mr. Bartush said there was no changes to the gear. This was effectively a name-change. The Shellfish Commission has no issue with this application.

**** MR. MACDONNELL MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 7 EDGEWATER PLACE KELP FARM PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION: THE APPLICANT (NORM BLOOM & SON) PLANS TO ESTABLISH A SUGAR KELP SEAWEED AQUACULTURE FARM (2016-SW#3) NEAR SHEFFIELD ISLAND.**

**** MS. JONES SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

42 SEAVIEW AVENUE (VETS PARK MARINA PROJECT)– DISCUSSION: NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION TO APPROVE STRUCTURES, DREDGING & FILL AND TIDAL WETLANDS AND INTENT TO WAIVE PUBLIC HEARING.

This item was handled out of order. Chairman Kibbe said the documents had been posted for review. There were no detailed drawings of the docks. Review of the site followed. Dr. Pinto brought up issues with the 408 permit. Discussion followed. A letter will be sent to DPW to review the application.

18 TONETTA CIRCLE PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION: THE APPLICANT (BRANDY STROH) PROPOSES TO REPLACE AN EXISTING DOCKING FACILITY WITH A 4' BY 60' PIER SUPPORTED BY PILINGS.

Mr. Bartush said that it would require a site inspection. This is a pre-application, and an application will still need to be submitted. The map of the site was provided for review. It was decided to table this item until Mr. Hilts could be present to discuss it.

REVIEW OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING'S COMPREHENSIVE RE-ZONING PROPOSAL AS IT AFFECTS WATERFRONT AND COASTAL AREAS. PUBLIC HEARINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 12/5 AND 12/6.

There will be a hearing on this item on December 5th and 6th, 2023. On November 21st, 2023, there will be a session where Planning & Zoning staff will discuss the changes and there will be a chance for written comments. They have not received official comments from DEEP. Discussion followed regarding interactions with DEEP regarding this item. There are only four parcels up for up zonings which were reviewed. Discussion followed regarding what would be discussed at the upcoming meetings and utilizing online web pages for review/discussion. The suggestion of meeting to discuss this item at a later date was raised. The suggested date was November 27th, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. to have a special meeting of the Harbor Management Commission.

STANDING ACTION ITEMS: OPEN DISCUSSION OF FUTURE WALK BRIDGE PROPOSALS REGARDING PLACEMENT OF TRANSMISSION CABLES AND EXCLUSION ZONE PROPOSAL BY EVERSOURCE, DOT'S PLANS FOR STATIONING WORK BARGES IN NORWALK HARBOR AND HARBOR MASTER'S AUTHORITY; DOT'S PLANS TO MONITOR WATER QUALITY, AND BULKHEAD CONSTRUCTION AT PROPOSED SOUTH WATER STREET STAGING PROPERTIES.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the item. It was noted that, if the zoning was changed, there would be issues and certain things could not be done.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Pinto brought up information regarding an issue on 8084 Seaview Ave. The application has not been reviewed or completed yet and is still pending.

Chairman Kibbe read a letter that had been sent to him by a member of the public for those present. The person requested that items be added to the minutes. They also insisted that they engage in creative educational outreach opportunities. It was decided to attach their comments to previously approved minutes as an addendum. Discussion followed regarding the purpose of the minutes.

Mr. Hilts returned to the meeting. He was informed that they had tabled item 18 Tonetta Circle pre-submission consultation: the applicant (Brandy Stroh) proposes to replace an existing docking facility with a 4' by 60' pier supported by pilings.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – KIBBE

Chairman Kibbe reported that he had received an invitation from Chairman Bares for the December 6 holiday event. He noted that, in December, they would need to appoint their nominating committee. Discussion followed regarding the committee. Their annual meeting will be on February 28, 2024 including the election of officers. He discussed the current state of the Water Quality Committee and how to make them more efficient.

Ms. Jones left the meeting at 7:50 P.M.

Discussion followed regarding how one would apply for the Commission.

STAFF REPORTS

HARBOR MASTER – LOVALLO

Mr. Lovallo reported the following:

- It has been a slow month.
- A bill from Norm Edwards for \$805.
- Some people have not paid for their moorings.
- He had received an e-mail providing an update on the progress of work on the bridge.

CONSULTANT – STEADMAN

There was no report at this time.

SHELLFISH COMMISSION – BARTUSH

Mr. Bartush reported the following:

- For 18 Tonetta they recommended a site inspection.
- They had completed 17 Sylvester.
- They had completed the kelp long-line for Captain Bloom's personal registration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOORING AND HARBOR SAFETY – MANGELS

Mr. Mangels reported the following:

- There have been 118 moorings using the online system this year.
- There had been 4 Walk Bridge temporary moorings in the inner harbor.
- He will be in touch with Amelia regarding the letter to the managed fields.

FINANCE – MACDONNELL

Mr. MacDonnell reported the following:

- They owe the City Form in two days.
- The need to update the Running Total Form.
- Financial predictions.
- A review of the expenses and determining how much to request in funding.

**** MR. MACDONNELL MOVED TO REQUEST \$22,000.00 IN FUNDING FOR THE NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION FROM THE CITY GRANT.**

Discussion followed as to what the requested amount should be.

**** THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.**

**** MR. MACDONNELL MOVED TO REQUEST \$23,000.00 IN FUNDING FOR THE NORWALK HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION FROM THE CITY GRANT.**

It was suggested that they wait until the numbers could be compiled for proper defense to the City.

**** THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.**

PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS – MACDONNELL

Mr. MacDonnell reported the following:

- He had requested more information about incorporating the street end grant into other projects.
- Updates regarding zoning issues.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE – MATTHEWS AND WHITE

Mr. White reported the following:

- The newsletter content is written and about to be sent off.
- They will be starting weekly social updates soon.

WATER QUALITY – TBD

There was no discussion at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

A draft of the proposed schedule was provided for review. It needs to be submitted by December 14. The possibility of having hybrid meetings as opposed to online ones was raised.

- ** MR. MANGELS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** CHAIRMAN KIBBE SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. MANGELS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** DR. PINTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Ian A. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

DRAFT