

West Haven Harbor Management Commission
Minutes of Meeting January 6, 2016

The Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Chairman Pacapelli.

Present: Members Michael Pimer, Dennis Flynn, Gene Pacapelli , Geoff Steadman, Commissioner of Planning and Development Joe Riccio, Liaison Mark Paine

There was no quorum. This meeting was informational only.

There was discussion regarding the minutes of November 5, 2015. Comm. Pimer asked what the West Cove Coalition is? None of the members are aware of this coalition. However, Mr. Paine believes it has to do with the signage being placed in the Water Street area. It is possible that it was worded wrong and it should read First Avenue Coalition.

Comm. Pimer opened discussion on the possibility of dredging. He also asked if there was a possibility of a partnership with University of New Haven's (UNH) Marine Biology Class to test water quality and clarity and study the ecological impact in the sound and West River.

Mr. Pain has been in contact with UNH. He suggested the Commission come up with what the Commission would like to the students to test. This would enhance their educational pursuit as well as benefit the Commission. Mr. Paine also stated he will be meeting with the professor regarding a Cove River study and he is working on a number of small partnerships with other educational institutions. Unh has also contact Eileen Krugel, the city's Grant Coordinator to assist in finding grants for such purposes.

Comm. Pimer said he would like to see a visibility study in West River. He explained that visibility in this river is very low as compared to others in this area. Bridgeport has 8-10 foot visibility in their river and Quinnipiac has 4 foot visibility. Comm. Flynn stated that he believes the flow of these rivers has to have some impact on visibility. Mr. Paine believes that organics and solidity along with the amount of salty water also has some impact. The Commission also questions how much impact the Junk Yard (Sims Metal) has on this issue. Comm. Flynn stated that if the DEEP should be contacted regarding this concern.

Update from Geoff Steadman

Mr. Steadman distributed copies of the Public Survey; to date there were 209 responses. The Commission reviewed the current results as well as the comments (see attached).

Mr. Pain asked how long this survey will be kept open. Mr. Steadman suggested that it remain open and that the city publicize through the Register, Voice and City Notes. Since the cost of \$26.00 is minimal, we should try to get more residents to complete it.

Mr. Steadman has been in contact with several Local, State and federal agencies (i.e. DOT, DEP. DEEP) to try and find \$35,000 for a feasibility assessment of wetlands and tidal flats.

Mr. Riccio stated that there is plenty of documentation and if the Commission takes that information and puts it in the form of a proposal, they may then be able to go the State Legislatures to request funding for this feasibility assessment. Once this proposal is complete, a letter should be sent to the Mayor from the Chairman.

Mr. Steadman will put together the proposal, as suggested, for next month's meeting.

Mr. Riccio will contact Michael Walsh to request announcements for the survey to be sent out.

Mr. Paine informed the Commission that a grant has been secured for the study of coastal resiliency at Sandy Point. The outfall pipe has been exposed and in need of replacement and burial.

Mr. Paine also informed the Commission that Osprey platforms have been installed in several locations within the city. Currently there are more than 6 erected.

A motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Flynn. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

***** Please note: this was an informational meeting as there was no quorum*****

Respectfully submitted by

Rosa Richardson
Recording Secretary