

MEETING MINUTES OF HARBOR COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 8, 2018
6:30 P.M.

The West Haven Harbor Management Commission held a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2018 in the Harriet North Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT at 6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Pacapelli, McKeon, Flynn, Pimer, Potter, Assistant City Planner Killeen and Consultant Geoff Steadman.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Flynn made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 1, 2017, seconded by Commissioner McKeon and passed.

Regular Meeting

1. Status of Agency Review of Proposed Harbor Management Plan –

Mr. Steadman stated the DEEP has been reviewing the draft Harbor Management Plan that was sent in November 2017. The time period for responding from all the divisions was January 31st. Karen Michaels, DEEP, extended the deadline for comments for ten more days. Army Corps of Engineers made comments but ones that should not affect the overall policies of the draft Harbor Management Plan. The Boating Division is concerned with the use of the term “regulation” rather than the term “ordinance” and abandoned vessels to notify DEEP. No comments are critical of the plan. They are more editorial comments. Mr. Steadman expected to have the final comments by this meeting and therefore would have been able to send the final version back with the comments incorporated. As far as Mr. Steadman can determine, the DEEP Fisheries and CT Port Authority still need to comment. Once the plan is approved by DEEP and the CT Port Authority, it can be presented to the City Council for their approval. Mr. Killeen asked Mr. Steadman if he receives the additional comments before the March meeting, if he could email them to the commission members and provide a suggested response so that the Commission could be in a position to act on the changes to the plan and get them back to the DEEP soon after the March meeting, to keep the process moving.

2. Update on pending CT Port Authority Grant for Feasibility Study re: Boat Launching Ramp –

Geoff Steadman emphasized that when the Harbor Plan is presented to Town Council, that this boat launching ramp is a benefit of the Harbor Management Plan. Also, that this Plan does not ask or require any additional funds. Mr. Killeen stated in November the grant was sent to Corporation Counsel. With the change in administration, the new Corporation Council did review the agreement, and the resolution is now scheduled for consideration by the City Council at their meeting on Monday, February 12 at 7 p.m. Mr. Killeen plans to attend the meeting so he can answer any questions Council members might have. Commissioners were invited to attend if they would like.

3. REPORTS OF STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

- a. Discussion of Correspondence re: erosion of beach near Prospect Avenue – The original letter was intended to be sent last November to Commissioner of Public Works Perrotti regarding the beach erosion but due to the administration change, the letter needs to be readdressed to the Acting Public

Works Director Esposito with a copy to Mayor Rossi. After discussion, Mr. Killeen agreed to revise the letter accordingly and coordinate the revised version of the letter with Chairman Pacapelli.

- b. Update on Status of Hew Haven Harbor Dredging Project - Commissioner Pimer stated this will take approximately two to three years. He attended a meeting with the Army Corp or Engineers and the CT Port Authority and it was explained that they want to blast the breakwater, straighten out the channel and put spoils from the rock on the outside of the west wall making it shallower by one foot. The Sandy Point marsh is one area being considered to receive spoils from the dredging of New Haven Harbor. He is concerned that West Haven should have something to say about this. Commissioners raised concerns that this could impact on the City's plans to replace the existing sewer outfall in this areas - and there may be other others that could benefit more from filling with these spoils. Mr. Steadman reported that he was in communication with Judy Schieffel of New Haveb and when she returns, she will contact the Harbor Commission. Mr. Pimer said that he has a good working relationship with her as well. This area of Sandy Point is addressed in the Harbor Management Plan. Judy Schieffel was not aware of the project to bury the outfall pipe. Mr. Habel, Army Corp of Engineers, stated this plan is a concept only and is not in the design phase. Mr. Habel proposed to put dredge material in geo-tubes to make a dike around the existing dike then pump the dredge material into that dike area and plant wetland grasses. This may affect the city's plan to bury the outfall pipe and could affect the bird habitat as well. Commissioner Pimer suggested approaching them now because the jetty has been buried and would suggest that the extra rock that needs to be disposed of can be used for the jetty. Mr. Killen asked if it would appropriate to draft a letter now asking that this commission would like to be involved before it goes into the design phase. Mr. Steadman will send an email to Judy Schieffle. Commissioner Pimer informed the commission with respect to dredging the West River back to the 12ft from the existing 6 ft. Mr. Steadman stated there is a process to follow and the request needs to come from the Harbor Management Commission with letters of support from the administration. This item will be added to next month's agenda. Mr. Killeen will draft a letter to raise this issue with Connecticut's congressmen. The Harbor Plan provides the ability for the commission to do this.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 P.M.

Commissioner McKeon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Flynn and passed.