

# MEETING MINUTES OF HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSON

March 6, 2019

The West Haven Harbor Management Commission held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 in the Harriet North Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT at 6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners McKeon, Flynn, and Potter, Assistant City Planner Killeen, Department of Public Works Liaison Paine and Consultant Geoff Steadman. Absent were Commissioners Pacapelli and Pimer.

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Assistant Chairman McKeon in the absence of Chairman Pacapelli.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Commissioner McKeon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 7, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Flynn and passed

## Regular Meeting

1. Update on completion of final Harbor Management Plans, Plan Circulation –Mr. Steadman has completed and circulated all the changes to the Plan. He also provided a .pdf file of the adopted Plan, which has now been posted to the City’s website.
2. CT Port Authority Grant for Feasibility Study re: Boat Launching Ramp
  - Update on Work Plan – Mr. Killeen explained how RACE had completed a concept plan which was used as a discussion tool for a multi-agency meeting held at City Hall on January 29. In attendance were representative of the CT DOT, CT DEEP and the CT Port Authority. In addition, Susan Lee from the Army Corps of Engineers was available for the meeting by phone. During the meeting, representatives of the agencies expressed concern that the City of West Haven’s boat launching ramp would interfere with a wetland mitigation area that was created as mitigation for the construction impacts of the I-95 bridge project a couple years ago. Agencies encouraged the City to identify and evaluate all available locations in the City where the ramp could go to determine if there are other alternative sites that would avoid this wetland.
  - Commissioners reviewed the concept plan and commented that they felt it was a good general concept to work with.
  - Following up on this meeting, Mr. Killeen will coordinate with RACE and the CT DEEP in documenting potential sites.
3. Discussion of proposed budget for FY 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)

**Harbor Master Fees** – Stipend was put through the Public Works budget proposal. This year, the budget proposed the Harbor Master Fees be increased to \$4,999 to be commensurate with the Tree Warden and the Sidewalk Inspector.

After further discussion, motion was made by Commissioner Flynn, seconded by Commissioner Potter to send a letter of support for this budget item.

## 4. REFERRALS

- a. Mr. Killeen explained that an application had been submitted to amend the Zoning Regulations to allow Recycling Processing Facilities by Special Permit in the Industrial Planned Development

District. Since this District has some frontage along the West River, this proposed zoning amendment will be referred to the Commission for comment at the April 3 meeting.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

α. Discussion of Proposed Marsh Creation Project at Sandy Point

The Commission discussed the fact that the Corps of Engineers has scheduled a meeting in West Haven on March 8 to discuss the proposed New Haven Harbor Improvement Project. As part of the project, there is a proposal to use some of the dredge spoils to help build a saltwater marsh in the Sandy Point area. Copies of the concept plan were circulated for discussion purposes, along with mapping of needed real estate easements. Preliminary comments:

- There is a concern that there is significant tidal flow and potential impact of battering waves at the proposed location for this marsh, and there is a concern that a constructed marsh may be washed away in a short period of time. With the adjacent environmentally sensitive areas, there is a worry that the movement of this much material could damage the fragile ecosystem that has been established here over recent years.
- Flushing of Old Field Creek is essential to its continued rejuvenation. It is not clear from the concept plans that there will be enough tidal flushing.
- Mr. Steadman recommended that the City obtain some input from other environmental peers such as Tom Steinke who was previously the Conservation Administrator for the Town of Fairfield and invented the Self-Regulating Tide Gate.
- How would the tidal wetland mitigation project affect the ability of the City to maintain or replace the sewer outfall pipe in future years?
- What are the requirements for the proposed easements?

Mr. Steadman commented that the CT DEEP has historically preferred wetland mitigation projects that upgrade an existing wetland area that has been degraded over creating a new wetland area.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:55 p.m.

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