

MEETING MINUTES OF HARBOR COMMISSION

March 8, 2018

6:30 P.M.

The West Haven Harbor Management Commission held a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 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, Flynn, and Pimer, Public Works Liaison Paine, Assistant City Planner Killeen and Consultant Geoff Steadman.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Flynn made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 8, 2018, seconded by Commissioner Pimer and passed.

Regular Meeting

1. Status of Agency Review of Proposed Harbor Management Plan; Preparation of Final Draft Plan–

Geoff Steadman explained that he had spoken with Karen Michaels at CT DEEP and that no additional Agency comments were received on the draft Plan. He summarized the proposed changes that were contained in the document “Proposed Modifications to the Draft West Haven Harbor Management Plan”, dated March 6, 2018 in response to comments received from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Boating Division of the CT DEEP. This document had been forwarded to the Commissioners by email in preparation for this evening’s meeting.

Mr. Steadman also noted that there was one section of the proposed Plan that included a statement regarding the depth and configuration of the federal channel located within the West River. Based on further discussion of the New Haven dredging project, Mr. Steadman suggested this statement also be included in another section of the Plan which included proposed goals for the West River sub-management area to make sure the recommendation was clearly understood to be part of the Plan.

After reviewing and discussing the items included in this 7-page document, motion was made by Commissioner Flynn to approve this document with the addition of the reference to managing the channel within the West River area. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pimer and passed.

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

Mr. Killeen reported that he had attended the February meeting of the City Council and, during that meeting, the Council endorsed a resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign the necessary papers for this grant, which was completed in February, and the forms have been sent to the Port Authority. Consultant Steadman commented that the Port Authority needed to provide executed contracts to the CT Department of Economic and Development for final review before checks are written. Mr. Killeen stated that, once we receive confirmation, we should be able to begin with the RFP (Request for Proposals) process.

3. Discussion of Presentation to New Administration (tentatively the April Meeting)

Mr. Steadman reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that was utilized for presenting the draft Harbor Management Plan to the public last year before the Plan was circulated to the CT DEEP for formal review. After reviewing this PowerPoint presentation, the Commissioners agreed that this same presentation could be used as a presentation to the new Administration since it gave a good overview of the City's Harbor Management Area and the issues that the Harbor Management Commission was working to address. Mr. Steadman agreed he would update the slides that had specific dates on them to make the presentation current.

4. REFERRALS

- a. City of West Haven Planning and Zoning Commission proposes to amend the City's Zoning Regulations to establish standards for and an approval process for Adult Oriented Establishments. File # ZR 18-003.

Mr. Killeen summarized this proposed regulation, explaining that it could affect properties in either the LM or IPD District. The IPD District includes some waterfront properties that are located along the West River within the Harbor Management Area, which is why this proposal was referred to the Harbor Management Commission for comment. Mr. Killeen found a previous comment from the Commission on another regulation that affected waterfront properties in a similar way. Based on that previous set of comments, the Commission came up with the following proposed condition of approval:

“While the Applicant's proposal affects property on, in or contiguous to the West Haven Harbor Management Area (HMA), the Commission does not believe the proposal will have a significant impact on the HMA. Therefore, the Commission has no further comments on this proposal at this time, with the understanding that any future development proposal that is located on the waterfront and would be affected by this proposed regulation would be subject to review by the Harbor Management Commission at that time.”

Motion was made by Commissioner Flynn to provide this comment to the Planning and Zoning Commission in response to their referral of this application. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pimer and passed.

5. REPORTS OF STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

- a. Update on Status of Hew Haven Harbor Dredging Project -

Mr. Steadman and Mr. Killeen previously forwarded a draft letter from the HMC to the Army Corps of Engineers by email for review by the Commissioners before tonight's meeting. The Commissioners discussed this draft letter, which asked the US Army Corps of Engineers to include the City of West Haven, through its Harbor Management Commission, in the planning process, specifically as it impacts on local issues such as the dimensions and depth of dredging for the West River channel and the potential for disposal of dredge spoils in the Sandy Point area as a wetland restoration project. Mr. Paine discussed a possible DEEP study in respect to the possible wetland restoration project and provided a copy of a letter he had provided in support of this project. After some discussion, the Commission was comfortable sending the draft letter as long as it was amended to include recognition of DEEP's proposed study and the Commission's support for that study. It was noted that the US Army Corps of Engineers was planning to meet with representatives of West Haven in City Hall next Thursday, March 15 to discuss the possible impacts of the proposal

to use dredge spoils in the Sandy Point area. It was noted that there would be concerns about the potential impact on the City's pending plans to replace an existing outfall pipe at this location and a general concern about the potential impact on the fish life and wildlife in the area. It was noted that the DEEP will probably be represented at this meeting as well as City staff and the Commission's consultant, Mr. Steadman. It was also reported that Mr. Salvatore from the CT Port Authority was interested in when the meeting was scheduled. After some discussion, the Commission agreed that Mr. Salvatore should be invited to attend as well.

Motion was made by Commissioner Flynn to forward the draft letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asking to have the City of West Haven, through its Harbor Management Commission, to be involved as a stakeholder in the planning process for the proposed New Haven Harbor dredging project and to have Consultant Geoff Steadman incorporate a paragraph endorsing the proposed DEEP study of a potential wetland restoration project using some of the dredge spoils along Sandy Point. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Pimer and passed.

- b. Past Commissioner of Planning and Development Joseph Riccio was present for this meeting. The Commissioners provided a framed photograph of the Sandy Point area to Mr. Riccio to thank him for his years of service.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:55 P.M.

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