

MEETING MINUTES OF HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

The West Haven Harbor Management Commission held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 in the Harriet North Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 355 Main Street, West Haven, CT at 6:30 PM

PRESENT: Commissioner Pacapelli, Pimer, McKeon, Flynn, Consultant Geoff Steadman, Public Works liaison Paine and Assistant City Planner Killeen.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Commissioner McKeon made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 5, 2019, seconded by Commissioner Flynn and passed.

Regular Meeting

1. Update on Boat Launching Ramp Feasibility Study – Mr. Killeen had a conversation with Mr. Steinberg at RACE Coastal Engineering and he expects over the next month or so conceptual plans will be drawn up. Commissioner Flynn asks if the city is in agreement with using this piece of property for a boat ramp. He feels we should not spend money on a feasibility study if the City will not allow the ramp to be built on this property. Mr. Paine suggests the Harbor Commission come up with a five year plan which would be reviewed every year and submit it to the Council as part of the budget process. After some additional discussion by the Commissioners, Mr. Killeen suggested getting a conceptual plan from RACE and then circulate it to build awareness and to seek the city's formal approval.
2. DEEP Approval of NH Harbor Federal Navigation Project – Mr. Killeen distributed copies of the approval letters dated August 14, 2019 for the NH Harbor project. He noted that DEEP will be seeking final comments from the Harbor Management Commission before issuing a final permit for the dredging project. Mr. Steadman stated there were comments made by the US Fish and Wildlife about depositing spoils at Sandy Point to create the new salt marsh. He is going to try and get the comments from DEEP.
3. Update on 2019 SHIPP Grant Application – Mr. Killeen has not heard anything new. Mr. Steadman has attended meetings with the Port Authority and there is concern about some of the past decisions by Board members of the Port Authority, some of whom are being replaced. There is also some concern about an agreement between the Port Authority and a wind company who is in partnership with Eversource. The City of New London was upset because they were not made aware of this, and it affects the State Pier in New London. Under the agreement, this Pier could become the hub for assembly and distribution of wind power equipment. The Governor has requested that the Port Authority put on hold the SHIPP applications. New Reviews and new procedures will be established for the Port Authority. At the present time, there is no Port Authority director. Mr. Killeen stated the application was submitted by the posted deadline, but we will just have to wait to see when decisions

are made on those applications. In the meantime, we should continue to focus on the completion of the Feasibility Study being completed by RACE.

4. REPORTS OF STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS

a. Discussion of Current Conditions at April Street Boat Launching Ramp - Mr. Killeen stated Fred Messoro and the City Engineer Quadir met onsite. The City Engineer pointed out that there were issues with flooding that affect the Launching Ramp. He stated he is not involved directly in projects where new millings would be applied to an existing parking lot of this type. Commissioner of Public Works Tom McCarthy explained to Commissioner Messoro that more millings will be put down at the ramp parking lot by the weekend of September 7. Mr. Messoro also noted the flooding problem. After some discussion, Chairman Pacapelli and Public Works Liaison Paine asked that they be able to talk with Commissioner McCarthy before this work proceeds. Mr. Killeen will contact Commissioner of Public Works McCarthy and ask him to call Chairman Pacapelli before they proceed with these millings.

Miscellaneous: Mr. Paine stated the Cove River Tide Gate is progressing. There is a meeting next week and an environmental impact study will be able to go forward. The Tide Gate is expected to be installed by the spring of 2021

Mr. Steadman met with the Nature Conservancy who is assisting in the writing of the State's Blue Plan. There are concerns about this plan interfering with inter-municipal harbor jurisdictions. He would like to send a map showing the jurisdiction of West Haven. The Commission agreed with Mr. Steadman's recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:34 P.M.

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