

## **HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING**

The Harbor Management Commission Meeting of June 22, 2010 was held in The City Manager's Office. Chairman John Paul Mereen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Attendance was as follows:

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

John Paul Mereen, Chairman  
Alan Bergren, City Manager  
Alderman Peter Desaulniers  
Alderman H. Tucker Braddock  
James Paulsen

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Richard Benoit, Vice Chairman  
Edward Seder

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Geoff Steadman, Harbor Management Consultant  
Mike Gannon, Norwich Bulletin

#### 2. Determination of Quorum

It was determined a quorum was present.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Chairman Mereen, second by H. Tucker Braddock, to accept the minutes dated May 25, 2010. All were in favor.

#### 4. Citizen Comment-None at this time.

#### 5. Correspondence

A letter from The Norwich Sunrise Notary Club was given to each Commission Member and read aloud. The Club requests the use of The Harbor for a rubber duck fundraising event to be held in late September or early October and details will follow as they determine the feasibility of holding the event. After some discussion it was determined that conditions would be placed on the approval of the event.

On a motion by Chairman Mereen and second by Mr. Bergren it was unanimously APPROVED to send the Norwich Sunrise Rotary Club a letter stating the event could

proceed pending that all materials used for the event (rubber ducks, etc.) are retrieved properly and don't cause environmental or navigational issues.

6. Harbor Master Report

Mr. Harrison was not present; therefore there was no report.

7. Old Business

A. Harbor Management Plan Update-Mr. Steadman

Mr. Steadman spoke to the Commission about Chapter 2 of the GCS that refers to existing authorities and agencies and their responsibilities for Harbor Management. He stated that the Connecticut Harbor Management Act of 1984, as amended, is the principal State legislation affecting harbor management in Norwich and referred to Appendix B. Chapter 3 ½ of the Norwich Code contains local provisions for harbor management, consistent with the State Act in Appendix C. The information was developed for the 1994 City of Norwich Harbor Management Plan and has recently been updated in June 2010. He gave several examples of different agencies and groups and their role and any work they have done or will do that affects the Harbor. Mr. Braddock noted the importance of working closely with NCDC regarding economic development. Mr. Steadman spoke about the waterfront vision and implementation and strategy that was worked on in 2004-2005 and the collaboration between all departments and how that was incorporated into the harbor management plan. He told the Commission about the basic principles of the vision and economic growth related to the harbor and utilizing certain waterfront properties also known as targeted properties, to strengthen the waterfront vision. There was much discussion regarding revamping the Waterfront Development Division that was worked on years ago but never incorporated and how beneficial it would be. The Commission will forward a copy of the updated stamped draft copy of the proposal to Bob Mills for the next scheduled meeting of June 30, 2010.

When the City Council adopted the Harbor Management plan in 1996, there were recommended revisions made to the city code in Chapter 3 ½ (Appendix C page 3 & 5) that were never made, as researched by Mr. Steadman. It was determined that these revisions will be revisited and presented to the Council. There was a brief discussion regarding the rights to the boat launch and possible areas that would be beneficial to Norwich.

The Commission discussed some of the original ordinances that were outdated and needed to be looked at and revised because they are not feasible and need to be explained better. Appendix C of the proposed revisions were discussed in detail.

The pending grant application was discussed briefly.

## B. City Pier/City Dock/Seawall

E-mail from Barry Ellison was read and discussed regarding the status of the Seawall. It is now 100% complete except for a few small tasks. The specs and bid documents for the walkway will be advertised within a week.

## C. Yantic River Dredging Update

Due to funding there has been no change to the dredging project. Chairman Mereen briefly discussed the meeting he and Mr. Steadman had with DEP.

## 8. New Business

Mr. Bergren informed the Commission he has been in contact with Jeff Beckham at OPM regarding the monies that the City will receive from boating fees. The amount has significantly decreased from the original \$9000.00 a few years ago to approximately \$4000.00 to \$6000.00, which should be received in December. The reason for the decrease is they went back to the 1978 formula to calculate fees.

## 9. Other

Mr. Desaulniers asked the Commission about the possibility of grants for the dredging project. The Commission discussed avenues they would like to pursue such as the economic stimulus package, other LIS grant programs and other different initiatives they will pursue.

Mr. Bergren informed the Commission there are new pictures of the Harbor and Route 2 Bridge in the City Managers office.

## 10. Adjournment

On a motion by Chairman Mereen and second by Mr. Braddock the Harbor Management Commission Meeting of June 22, 2010 was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Darlene Fedus-Papineau  
Recording Secretary