The meeting commenced at 6:10 PM on February 3, 2015. The minutes of the subcommittee meeting of January 12th were moved and approved as written.

This was a sub-committee review and editing session of the first four chapters (4) of first draft of the Harbor Plan, to be reviewed and approved by full commission in its February 18, 2015 session, with Mr. Geoff Steadman, consultant, writing, and editing the draft. This review was a review of previous editing done chapter by chapter, with more detailed and edited comments, revisions, and feedback amongst members and noted by Mr. Steadman for inclusion in the draft.

Chapter 5 was also reviewed for a preliminary discussion that will follow the approval of Harbor Commission’s full committee on the first draft of Chapters 1-4.

As a highlight of revisions, points were made in no order of importance to be included at Mr. Steadman’s discretion in appropriate chapters and paragraphs:

1. “Independent nature of HC recommendations” — the phrase ‘independent’ was reviewed by town counsel and discussion ensued. It was requested by Mr. Quigley that a representative of town counsel be invited to join the full commission at its next February meeting to explain their use of ‘independent’ in the January 2015 commission session.

   “Collaborating with interested parties, adhering to state, federal, and local regulations, the Harbor Commission’s task is to make independent recommendations in its advisory and regulatory role as outlined in the Greenwich Town Ordinance of June 2014 and state Regulation ________”

2. Authority: Where there is mention of ‘responsibilities’ of HC, there should also be mention of the Harbor Commission’s ‘authority’ — “authority and responsibilities” go hand in hand to insure measurability and accountability in its recommendations and actions — to the above understanding.

3. Rules & Regulations: suggestion to include actual rules and regulations to be reviewed to support goals and objective outlined in the second half of the draft, might be placed as an addendum to the Plan. It was suggested by Mr. Steadman that we do not include all the rules and regs in the HM plan (even as an addendum) as then each time the HMC or Parks and Rec or the Selectmen
changed a rule or reg, the full plan would have to go before all the approving bodies for review and approval.

4. Municipal Code Chapter # 7 – Parks and Recreation maritime and marina regulations. There is still a need to clarify overlapping nature of this chapter # 7 for updating rules and regulations pertaining to Harbor Commissions tasks outlined in the Harbor Plan.

5. “Coastal site plan” reviews including ‘docks’ – the nature and type of these reviews need to be defined where state DEEP authority and P & Z intersects with Harbor Commission responsibilities to review site plans that impact harbors and coastal areas. Suggestion that ‘docks’ also be included in this review process together with commercial and town development projects impacting water resources on coast. Request will be forwarded to DEEP that Harbor Commission presently engage in this review process for making recommendations to DEEP and P & Z as outlined in state regulations – yet to be written in the new Harbor Plan. It may be residential applications are screened by the Commission (or if a member or majority deem important) each month to determine the size and scope of projects and possible negative development impact – to determine site reviews for comment.

6. Environmental water and soil testing protocols – import to mention in appropriate sections that HC might develop appropriate water and soil testing protocols in collaboration with town and state agencies to measure the quality of water and soil at coastal edges, its flow, and for negative impact and solutions on harbors and adjoining coastal areas”.

7. Impacts of unusual storm events – HC to review the negative impact after certain major storm events to determine nature of destruction and need to invest in long term funds and plans to repair damages.

8. Sub-committee on “budget and long term planning (Finance)” – suggested as a tool to oversee annual operation budget and expenses to GASB standards (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) and to request short and long term capital funds for such capital projects as ‘dredging’.

Conclusion: It was moved and unanimously approved that tonight’s draft of the first FOUR (4) chapters (with some clarification by town counsel and minor modifications to be made) could be submitted to full Harbor Commission at its February 18, 2015 session. Madam Chair is to present sub-committee comments for change to Chapter FIVE (5) at February 18th session prior starting the review of Chapter SIX (6) at the next sub-committee meeting.

It was suggested that the next public session could be arranged to review the first 4-5 chapters and that that session be set up in a ‘workshop’ format for give and take from the public.

Adjournment made at 8:10 PM with motion from Steve Kinner, seconded by P. Quigley.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Quigley, Acting Secretary,
February 4, 2015