Town of Greenwich
Harbor Management Commission
Special Meeting
July 12, 2017
7:00 P.M.
Mazza Room, Town Hall

Minutes

Members in attendance:
Bruce Angiotillo
Lile Gibbons
Mike Van Oss
Bernard Armstrong
Bill Ingraham
Steve Kinner
Frank Mazza

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary

Alternates:

Casey McKee

Absent

Don Carlson

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:
Sue Baker
Roger Bowgen
Frank DiPietro
Ian MacMillan
John Toner
Joe Turcanyi

Conservation Commission
Shellfish Commission
Police Department Marine Division
Harbormaster
Board of Selectmen
Police Department Marine Division

Absent:
Jeff Freidag
Rick Loh
Horst Tebbe

Department of Parks & Recreation
Board of Parks & Recreation
RTM

Consultant in Attendance:
Geoffrey Steadman

This certificate received on file OCT 11 2017
On
At 10:09 AM

Town Clerk
1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Chairman Bruce Angiolillo

All members present except Alternate Member Don Carlson who sent the attached letter in which he stated that he wished to convey his strong endorsement of the Harbor Management Plan as revised and would like the record to reflect that he would vote to approve the HMP as currently written if he were present and seated.

2. Review and authorization for submission of Approval Draft of Proposed Harbor Management Plan to the State of Connecticut (DEEP) for approval, and next steps.

Chairman Angiolillo turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Lile Gibbons, Chairman of the Harbor Management Plan Committee.

Lile outlined process since the Committee began working on the plan.

In working off the January, 2017 draft of the Harbor Management Plan, there are not any substantive changes to the January version but there were three areas of concern with DEEP which have taken six months first to agree on the issues and secondly to agree on language.

The three areas are:

1. We agreed the power of the Board of Selectmen to hear appeals and overturn decisions of the HMC is limited to those subject matters assigned to the BOS in the special acts.

2. In the permitting of docks and piers, DEEP asked for language that specified size, location, design, material, etc. of in water structures. With 26 miles of shoreline, we argued it was not possible to draft “one size fits all” language for all dock and pier applications. As an alternative, while acknowledging the littoral rights of the home owner, we stated new dock and pier permits should protect the visual site lines within the neighboring waterfront, would not impede navigation within the area, would not harm the vegetative matter and should not detract from the traditional features of an otherwise scenic cove.

We argued for DEEP to consider “visual aspects” in their review process. DEEP was equally insistent that they cannot evaluate something as subjective as “visual aspects”. We agreed that the plan would say that construction of public and private floats, docks and piers should not have a significant adverse impact on the natural features of vistas and viewpoints and the traditional character of shorefront areas. And DEEP was allowed to asterisk this clause, saying the visual impacts have rarely been determining factors in DEEP’s coastal regulatory decisions.

3. The third area of concern with DEEP was whether all decisions made by the HMC would be binding on DEEP. We argued that if DEEP could override any decision made by a local
harbor commission, there was no home rule and no need for a Harbor Management Commission. We compromised with language stating all decisions made by the HMC that were consistent with and adequately supported by the plan’s policies, DEEP would accept those decisions.

4. We have retained environmentally sound, nonfederal dredging as a goal but DEEP would not accept it as an alternative to the proliferation of docks and other in water structures.


6. DEEP has repeatedly agreed the moorings regs do not have to be in the plan per se but the plan should list subject titles of the regs which we have done on page 7-8.

Lile called for questions and comments from Harbor Management Commission members.

The following are their responses:

Mike Van Oss complimented the Committee on the time, effort and detail in preparing the Plan and expressed his support of same.

Bill Ingraham expressed his appreciation for the work of the committee and expressed his support for the Plan.

Steve Kinner complimented a great job by the Committee and volunteered to help constituents on any future questions for annual review.

Frank Mazza commented on the intensity of preparing the Plan and thanked the Committee as he expressed his full support.

Bernie Armstrong complimented Bruce, Lile and Geoff Steadman on preparing an understandable plan with a very big thanks to the Committee on a job well done.

Casey McKee said the Committee had done a Yeoman’s job and thanked the Committee for their efforts. He further stated that if he had been seated for this meeting he would have voted in favor on the Plan.

Chairman Angiolillo commented that the Plan provides the Town with control of its own destiny, endorsed by the State of Connecticut. He went on to state that the Plan is a direct consequence of Geoff Steadman’s understanding of how to negotiate and expressed his appreciation for Geoff’s expertise and dedication.
Chairman Angiolillo called for a motion to approve Approval Harbor Management Plan as of July 12, 2017. Motion for approval made by Bernie Armstrong, seconded by Steve Kinner. Motion carried. Unanimous.

Selectman John Toner thanked the Committee on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of the Town of Greenwich for their efforts and dedication in preparing a Harbor Management Plan.

Geoff Steadman expressed his pleasure on working with the Committee on the Plan. He said a plan is only as good at the Commission and this has been an outstanding group.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Lile Gibbons, seconded by Steve Kinner. Motion carried (Unanimous).

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M

Bruce Angiolillo
Chairman

Mike Van Oss
Secretary

Penny Monahan assisted the Secretary in the preparation of these minutes.
Follow-Up

Don Carlson <don.carlson@me.com>
To: Bruce Angiolillo <bruce.ghmc@gmail.com>
Cc: Lile Gibbons <lileg1@aol.com>, Geoffrey Steadman <geoffreysteadman@att.net>

Dear Chairman Angiolillo: I regret that I am out of town and cannot attend the July 12 special meeting. I wish to convey my strong endorsement of the Harbor Management Plan as revised and would like the record to reflect that I would vote to approve the HMP as currently written if I were present and seated.

The HMP is the result of years of hard work by you and the other members of the Commission. You have negotiated a comprehensive and highly professional document that has won the support of key officials at DEEP. The HMP will return a measure of sovereignty to the Town over its coastline and enable the Town to consider an enact thoughtful policies to enhance the environmental, commercial, recreational and scenic luster of the Greenwich waterfront for decades to come. I look forward very much to working with my colleagues on the Commission to achieve great things under the framework of the Harbor Management Plan.

Sincerely,
Don Carlson
TO: Bruce Angiolillo, Chairman – Harbor Management Commission  
Lile Gibbons, Vice-Chairman – Harbor Management Commission  
FROM: Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney  
DATE: July 11, 2017  
RE: Harbor Management Plan Review

Pursuant to your request, the Town Attorney's Office has reviewed the draft Harbor Management Plan which was delivered to us on July 7, 2017. It is our opinion that the draft Plan is in legal order and may be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for its review.

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

cc: Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman  
    John Wayne Fox, Town Attorney
Special Meeting Notice
Harbor Management Commission
Wednesday, July 12, 2017
7:00 P.M.
Mazza Room - Town Hall

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Review and authorization for submission of Approval Draft of Proposed Harbor Management Plan to the State of Connecticut (DEEP) for approval, and next steps.
3. Adjournment.

[Signature]
Bruce Angiolillo
Chairman