07/27/2022 MINUTES
Town of Greenwich
Special meeting to update status of the Grass Island Dredge Project

Members in attendance:
Bernard Armstrong

Absent:
Lile Gibbons

Others in Attendance:
Joseph Siciliano
Scott Johnson
Janet McGuigan
Aamina Ahmad
Geoff Steadman

Representing the public:
Bill O’Neill
Bill Bennett
Patrick Sikorsky
Gary Silverberg
Ian Mc Millan

Mr. Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10 am and reminded all in attendance that the purpose of this meeting was to get the involved parties together to review past activities and progress and to discuss other possibilities regarding dredging the Grass Island marina area and Greenwich Harbor channel.

Mr. Siciliano reviewed the dredging history of this area as well as agreements made between the Town of Greenwich and the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE). Attention was given to definitions of the ACE's "open to all" requirements for the purposes of permitting and funding. In recent years there has been no response from the ACE to the Town's inquiries regarding whether or not Greenwich is currently in compliance with the ACE's evolving "open to all" requirements. A timely response from the ACE is needed if the HMC wishes to advocate for dredging to address significant silting in this area.

Ms. Stone McGuigan reported that, at the request of the HMC, and with the assistance of Congressman Jim Himes' office, she was able to open a channel of communication with the ACE project manager, Coral Siligato.

Ms. Ahmad noted that an email from Ms. Siligato responding to Ms. Stone McGuigan and shared with the members of the HMC seemed to imply that current ACE staff are not aware of historic agreements and current Greenwich policy.

After discussion between all in attendance, Mr. Armstrong asked that Mr. Siciliano forward agreements dating from 1955 and 1985 between the Town of Greenwich and the ACE to Ms. Ahmad, who will forward them to Ms. Siligato, asking for confirmation that these agreements show that Greenwich is in compliance with the ACE's "open to all" requirements, and if they do not, for further clarification.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.