

**Five Mile River Commission  
July 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes  
The Boardroom, Rowayton Community Center  
33 Highland Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853**

**Commission members in attendance:**

Matthew Marion, Chairman  
John deRegt, Commissioner  
Dirk Leasure, Commissioner  
Ray Meurer, Harbor Superintendent  
David Snyder, Assistant Harbor Superintendent

Absent: Wim Jessup

**Guest:**

Steve Bartush, Norwalk Resident

Matthew Marion took the chair at 7:37p.m.

Chairman Marion confirmed the Commissioners had reviewed and unanimously approved the June 16, 2016 meeting minutes electronically, subject to re-confirmation at the Commission's next meeting, and the minutes had been filed electronically with Darien and Norwalk within the statutory period. By vote, the Commissioners unanimously re-confirmed their approval of the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Public notice of the scheduled July 28, 2016 meeting was timely provided and the agenda timely filed with Darien and Norwalk.

On the first agenda item, Chairman Marion noted a substantial majority of the 2016 mooring permit holders had submitted completed forms under the biannual Ground Tackle Inspection Program, but a few had ignored the Harbor Superintendent's requests to complete their paperwork. The Commission unanimously voted in favour of sending a third, final notice to the delinquent permittees granting them 2 additional weeks to complete their paperwork, failing which they will not be granted a river mooring in 2017. Two boat owners have failed to have their ground tackle inspected by anyone, and will be dealt with separately.

Next, the Commission discussed the mooring wait list, which currently lists 27 people interested in obtaining moorings in the river, including potential boat owners or some waiting for deep draft moorings. The Commission noted the list may be discouraging potential customers due to its length and the fact that it includes many pre-2010 applicants, and thus recommended it be revised under new guidelines to include only current applicants who pay an annual fee. The Commission and Harbor Superintendent agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting, and also agreed the Harbor Superintendent will inform individuals on the 2016 wait list that the format and criteria for the list will change in the fall. The Harbor Superintendent noted seven boat owners were assigned moorings in the river for the first time this year.

The Commission also discussed how to increase demand for moorings in the river, given that there are currently 17 available moorings. Commissioner DeRegt suggested the Commission publish an article in the RCA's Currents newsletter about the advantages of mooring boats in the Five Mile River. Commissioner Leasure suggested a similar article be sent to the Darien and Norwalk newspapers and Darien Boat Club, which has a long wait list for slips, and Steve Bartush suggested it go to South Norwalk Boat Club. Assistant Harbor Superintendent Snyder suggested marketing the availability of moorings in the form of a flyer to real estate agencies to promote the benefits of home ownership near the river.

Next, the Commission and Harbor Superintendents discussed the possible consolidation of mooring strings in the river to alleviate congestion adjacent to the federal channel. Chairman Marion asked the Harbor Superintendents to propose a single mooring string arrangement in such areas for discussion in the fall.

The Commission briefly discussed the pending dock application for 9 Cudlipp Street, noting the DEEP had asked the applicant to review the distribution of spartina grass along the shoreline, given the Commission's requests for specific remediation and cleanup of the area.

Chairman Marion noted a number of slip holders have not yet paid the 2016 harbor use fee. The Commission then discussed possible ways to improve collection of the fee, starting with the marinas who rent out the slips. In addition, the Harbor Superintendent promised to send follow up emails to non-paying boat owners to expedite collection.

In his report to the Commission, the Harbor Superintendent noted current financials: 2016 YTD income totals \$46,750; YTD expenses total \$7,515.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

The remaining regularly scheduled meeting dates for 2016 are October 20 and December 8. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Rowayton Community Center, 33 Highland Avenue, Rowayton, Conn.

Respectively submitted, Ray Meurer, Harbor Superintendent