

Five Mile River Commission
July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Matt Marion (Chairman)

Wim Jessup (Commissioner)

Craig Jung (Commissioner)

and

Steve Bartush (Harbor Superintendent)

Absent: John deRegt (Commissioner)

The Five Mile River Commission commenced its regularly scheduled meeting via Zoom at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Marion confirmed that the City of Norwalk had accepted the Commission's recently drafted letter authorizing the City to create a subaccount for its current dredging funds, and that the City was in the process of setting up the account. The Commission agreed to address other recent issues related to the subaccount informally prior to the next scheduled meeting.

The Commission then discussed reports of boats speeding in the Five Mile River this summer. In one recent case, Harbor Superintendent Bartush initiated an investigation which has resulted in an investigation by the Norwalk Marine Police into the actions of the subject boat. That investigation is continuing. The Commission agreed that Mr. Bartush's regular presence on the river was an important deterrent to such conduct generally, and that the Commission had the authority to bar regular offenders from mooring their boats in the river. The Commission also noted the local marine police had agreed to increase their patrols of the river. Both the Commission and the Harbor Superintendent opposed the recent suggestion that the 'No Wake' buoy be relocated further south outside the river mouth, citing the likely increased exposure of the buoy to adverse weather, the risk of boats and marine debris striking the buoy, and the fact that the buoy is intended to mark the actual boundary of the 'No Wake' zone.

The Commission then noted/discussed the following items in Harbor Superintendent Bartush's July report: (i) the date for taking informal soundings of the river with Mr.

Marion; (2) the current status of summer bookings received via Dockwa for the transient moorings; (3) the re-configuration of the ‘D’ mooring string, which Mr. Bartush had asked the marine service provider (MSP) to re-set in order to rectify several identified problems (e.g., space between some of the mooring balls, scope of mooring chain); (4) the possibility of the Commission setting minimum standards for mooring tackle (which the Commission requested be submitted as a proposal for further discussion); (5) Mr. Bartush’s pending request (to an MSP) to install a new mooring for a boat currently on the mooring wait list; and (6) the location/installation of a new ‘No Discharge’ sign at the harbor mouth.

With no further business, the Commission adjourned its Meeting. The Commission’s next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom. To join, please contact Matt Marion in advance of the meeting via email at mmarion@marionlawllc.com to obtain the relevant meeting entry code.

Respectively submitted,

Five Mile River Commission