

CONNECTICUT HARBOR MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 7, 2002

DEP Headquarters, Old Lyme, CT

Present: Joel Severance (JS), Bob Sammis (BS), Dave Dunavan (DD), Gheof Steadman (GS), Mike Griffin (MG), Louis Allen (LA), Steve Hayes (SH), Ross (From Old Saybrook)

JS calls meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Informs the board that Jim Downey has submitted his notice of resignation. President Severance asked Mr. Downey to reconsider, take a break and hopefully stay on.

Previous meeting minutes submitted, reviewed and accepted: motion: Bob Sammis, second: Dave Dunavan

(At this point, the board re-stationed to the riverside dock for a group photo expertly performed by Dave Dunavan. Recess lasted for approx. 10 minutes.)

Treasurer Bob Sammis reported a balance of \$4,222.72 in the association's account, representing a healthy fiscal condition. Renewal notices will go out in June along with a frame able nicely done Certificate of Membership to the association. In addition, wallet size Membership cards will be provided for individual commission members to carry, if they wish.

Wharfing Out Committee: HR Bill 5485 has been pulled back due to recourse for appeal issues. The bill contained language requiring the involving the Gateway Commission in policies contained in HMP's as well as dock applications, etc as it relates to visual impact matters. It appears there are no more public hearings scheduled on the matter. Concern was expressed as to how specific or vigorous DEP would press these issues during town's HMP update /amendment process in the future, which is a complete unknown factor. Bob Sammis suggests we respond by corresponding to our legislators conveying our general support of the concept, but seeing the need for further study. Mike Griffin would like to see the HR Bill 5485 put up on our new website and request comments from interested parties. All agreed that it is a perfect application of our web site. Further motion made to authorize our Webmaster to implement with a not to exceed cost of \$50. Motion: Dave Dunavan, second: Steve Hayes

Web Site Committee: Dave Dunavan informed the board that the web site is up and open for business and would appreciate any comments, corrections, additional pertinent links we could add. The link page is growing. Appears we're within budget projections for project, but Dave Dunavan will check. Present contract takes into account quarterly updates. Individual HM Commissions that have web sites would be able to establish a link from the CHMA home page. Bob Sammis requested adding the web address to the next printing of the association courtesy pens, all agreed to do so.

Dredging Committee: Gheof Steadman & John Robeirge attended meetings to promote the idea of a state level dredging advocate to coordinate a coherent consistent approach by the state. Initial studies suggest no significant environmental impacts at tested sites. Gheof Steadman reported that EIS study is stalled and will require \$ 6 million in additional funding to complete, which is not being actively pressed by the ACOE due to a lack of support in Congress. Discussion ensued regarding a response to move to repeal the Ambrose Act, a move that would be opposed by NY. It was further suggested that the following steps be taken:

- Immediately fund the completion of the EIS study
- Extend the deposal site closing dates beyond completion of the EIS study plus 5 years to allow alternative planning.
- Ambrose Act provisions to become part of the Federal Clean Water Act.
- Strongly urge state legislators to support the creation of a State Dredging Advocate.

Gheof Steadman agreed to draft a letter on behalf of the association and send it to those in the position of deciding these issues.

Underground New Haven Cable Crossing: Bob Sammis circulated a sample letter to state legislators proposing a moratorium on cross sound utility projects. It presently appears that DEP may in fact not oppose this project and we are left to wonder why.

Harbor Master's Report: Mike Griffin reports that he has been re-appointed by the Governor's office. Mike Griffin recently attended the state BIG Grant program meeting and reported it to be informative. High-speed task force has met and is active. Mike Griffin circulated a letter to Mr. Kenneth Robert of DOT requesting clarification of Harbor Master's personal liability and indemnification under the present arrangement where Harbor Masters' use their personal vessels in the performance of their duties. Harbor Master's Spring Forum to be held on 3/27/02. A bulletin has been circulated and an agenda for the event should be prepared by next Friday. Mike Griffin suggests effort to recruit additional Harbor Master members from the many who are not members presently.

Associates Report: Gheof Steadman showed the board a draft of the Norwalk HMC Newsletter which all agree is quite nice. Gheof Steadman and Mike Griffin to continue to collaborate on the upcoming Harbor Masters Spring Forum scheduled for 3/27/02.

Other Business: Joel Severence discussed the possible conflict in jurisdiction between towns' Inland Wetlands Commissions and HMC issues. Steve Hayes mentioned that their town, through town counsel, has determined that the distinction is defined by

seawater or brackish tidal marshes vs. tidal marsh generally. Gheof Steadman recently discussed this issue with DEP and agreed with that basic point of view in similar instances. The issue appears to be unique to river harbors and the nuances of the relation between individual towns' Inland Wetlands Commissions and HMCs' operating in the same area.

Location of the next Meeting: Bridgeport Port Authority Building. Time TBA.

Motion To Adjourn: Made Mike Griffin, Second: LA. Motion carries. Adjourned 6:48 PM