

Town of Guilford
Harbor Management Commission
Regular Meeting
APPROVED Minutes
February 24, 2016 – 7:30pm
Nathanael B. Greene Community Center
32 Church Street ~ Guilford, CT 06437

Members Present: Alison Varian, K.J. Lee, Chris Tietjen &
State Harbor Master Fred Brisbois
Members Absent: Cliff McGuire & Theresa Hedleston
Alternates Present: Keith Harvey & John Thommen
Guest: Docko- Keith Neilson

Commissioner Varian called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

Public Forum:

Mr. Neilson spoke on behalf of Docko regarding the proposed dock at 5 Rock Lane (Tuttle's Point), owned by Janine and David Braun. The dock will have 2 concrete pedestals with aluminum ramps. The dock is to be 11'x15', and constructed of pressure treated southern yellow pine and polystyrene, with a 500lb. ramp float. Weight of the dock is approximately 3200-3500lbs. The ramp hinge will travel 4 feet from high to low tide, and will be anchored by drilled pilings instead of chains. There will be a 3:1 ramp slope at low tide. Dock will be a distance of 60' from the nearest dock in the area. There was an existing dock that had been in place on this site since 1988, but has since been destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. The dock float had been removed in the past, but was not prior to the hurricane. Mr. Neilson noted there are no wetlands on site, but there are on the adjoining property. The only vegetation on site is rockweed.

Discussion Points:

Mrs. Varian questioned when the dock would need to be removed; Mr. Neilson replied middle of November out, middle of April in. Mrs. Varian asked if the owner could remove dock in October;

Mr. Neilson replied the owners likely will not have issue with this.

Boat will be 20-22' long. Boat will need to be moored elsewhere. Mr. Tietjen asked how boat would be affected in stormy weather. Mr. Brisbois mentioned an application for a permit at the town dock for mooring the Braun boat could be a solution. Mr. Tietjen asked if hinged ramp was 4 or 5'; Mr. Neilson confirmed that the ramp is 4'. Mrs. Varian is concerned how a boat will fare in this area- it is very rocky and shallow, with consistent wave action. Mr. Neilson states there is coarse sand on the beach below ledge at this site. Mr. Tietjen asked if there were any neighbor questions or complaints. Mr. Neilson stated one neighbor had questioned the seawall, not necessarily the proposed docking facility. Mrs. Varian questioned if the ramp could be brought in at all, Mr. Neilson stated that it could not; they are as close as they can get. Mr. Neilson will email the GPS coordinates for this dock to Mr. Brisbois.

Mr. Neilson continued to describe the styles of ramps considered for this dock- aluminum was 4' wide, wood was 5'. Mrs. Varian asked if anyone had a problem

with the size of the dock- no commissioners had issue with dock size. Mr. Neilson asked if this dock was inconsistent with Harbor Management Plan? The Commission stated that it was not, but the application does not seem practical. Mr. Tietjen expressed concern about how a boat will fare in that area.

Approval of Prior Meeting's Minutes: The Commission voted unanimously to approve the January 27th, 2016 minutes, with minor changes. (Please see attached reflecting these changes)

State Harbormaster's Report:

State Activities:

Mr. Brisbois was alerted to draft of State legislation (SB 78, proposed by Senator Kennedy) that "disfavors the open water placement of dredged material". Since there is no local land site available for Guilford to dispose of dredge material, nor is there any practical access to an upland disposal site, Mr. Brisbois sent a letter objecting to the legislation. This letter was placed into evidence at the public hearing regarding SB 78, as was First Selectman Mazza's letter also objecting to the legislation.

Mr. Brisbois was unsure what outcome of hearing was in regards to dredging, and questioned what prompted this legislation. Senator Kennedy wanted to make sure all ways to dispose of dredged materials had been explored. Mr. Thommen said there would be a public hearing on dredging next week. Looking to amend EPA rule of 2005. Mr. Lee said he attempted to contact Senator Kennedy with no response. State Representative Kokoruda did not vote in favor of this legislation. Mr. Thommen suggested sending letters of support for the dredging dumping grounds to EPA.

Interface with Town Boards / Commissions / Offices / Associations:

Mr. Brisbois coordinated with First Selectman Mazza to facilitate a town letter objecting to proposed SB 78.

Moorings

No activity.

The plan is to issue renewal notices in March 2016, maintaining the \$25.00 fee per January 2016 Harbor Management Commission Meeting.

Significant Events/Other Activities:

Nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. McGuire, not present, submitted via email.

Funds for fire boat contribution have gone through.

After the \$10,000.00 for fire boat contribution, there is \$12,000.00 remaining in the account.

The Town of Guilford HR department did not approve the additional money for Harbormaster Brisbois. He is employed by the state, so no additional money can be granted. Commissioner Varian suggested Mr. Brisbois submit expenses for reimbursement. Mr. Brisbois suggested a clothing allowance. Mr. Thommen stated the total cannot exceed \$550.00 for clothing.

Approval of bills and vouchers

Bill for Secretarial services- Lisa Brewer- in the amount of \$50.25.

Mr. Lee approved this bill, Mr. Tietjen seconded. Mrs. Varian signed the approval in Mr. McGuire's stead.

New Business

Dock Application at 5 Rock Lane

Mrs. Varian asked if any others on the Commission would like to tell the Brauns that a boat cannot be moored at this dock. Said Sue Jacobsen was temporarily taking over for Kristen Bellantuona at the DEEP, and she was wondering if the float was large enough. Mr. Tietjen said that the float cannot be brought any closer to the ledge, and reiterated that driven piles in this area will not work, piles must be drilled. Mr. Lee questioned size of dock. Mr. Tietjen states the width of dock is important, but feels that dock should be built as light as possible, not heavier.

Mr. Thommen remarked that the 12' width is to allow for ramp wheels. Feels that dock is impractical. Would like to recommend not to keep a boat there. He does not want to deny this application, but does want to address concerns to the DEEP. He feels the dock should have legs.

Mr. Tietjen would like Mr. Neilson to submit construction drawings for this dock.

Mr. Thommen wonders if approval can be granted with conditions. Mrs. Varian and Mr. Teitjen confirmed it can.

The Commission recommends legs for dock, and that length be shortened by 4'. Keep width the same. Do not keep a boat at the dock- it should be used for day use or drop-off only. Boat should be moored elsewhere.

Mr. Teitjen showed photographs and video of proposed dock area showing the vegetation and wave action. He noted that in the summer it is not a bad area, but winter is not good; area is subject to Nor'Easter wave action and windy weather conditions.

Dredging Bill SB 78

Please see Harbormaster's Report.

Old Business

Guilford Yacht Club mooring applications for sailing program

The Guilford Yacht Club has submitted a check for \$225.00, which will cover 9 moorings.

Mr. Thommen would like clarification from the Yacht Club about which moorings the check covers, and suggests a spreadsheet to keep track. Mr. Brisbois noted a permit for each mooring they want to put in is required.

Fire boat contribution- The money for the fire boat contribution has finally gone through. See Treasurer's Report.

Review Harbor Management Plan

Mr. Brisbois wants to know who at the Port Authority we send this plan to. Mrs. Varian says the Commission will not send until the Plan is updated.

Page 60 7.3.2 x number of private moorings- 300
10 Private property associations along the shoreline
Fix "shoreline" to "Guilford shoreline"

Pages 60-61

Add in "State approved mooring fields"

Page 62

c. Harbor Management Commission has established... change wording from recommendation to complete.

"Shellfish Commission assists in the establishment of the Harbor Management Plan" Mr. Brisbois suggests wording of "action completed" at the end of paragraphs looking to change.

No mooring permits are issued without Shellfish Commission approval.

63.

After c.

64.

Adopted/established but not enforced? Town should enforce?

Electrical code requirements on docks.

65.

Recommend that wake zones- town ordinances be dropped. The no wake zones had to be approved by DEEP. There is not good monitoring in the East River for this.

66.

No changes- obey posted speed limits. Have DEEP patrol periodically for speeding. Change proposed to "marked areas"- get rid of 6 m.p.h. speed limit.

Adjourn

Before the meeting ended, Mrs. Varian announced that she is now the Chairman of the Shellfish Committee again, so she will no longer be able to chair the Harbor Management Commission. She asks if another Commissioner would like to be Chair; she will be Vice Chair. Mrs. Varian also noted that Mr. Harvey and Mr. Thommen are listed as alternates in the Commission; Mr. Thommen should be listed as a member.

The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Dudley,
Secretary