

**Borough of Fenwick
Harbor Management Commission
Special Meeting – July 5, 2016**

The Special Meeting of the Borough of Fenwick Harbor Management Commission was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2016 p.m. at 4 Nibang Avenue.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jamie Gay, Charlie Robertson, Charlie Renshaw, Sam Jones, Wayne Arute (Alternate).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sam Scatterday, Chip Gengras (Alternate), Jonathan Bulkeley (Alternate).

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Neilson, Docko; Frank Keeney, Burgess Liaison; Marilyn Ozols, Land Use Administrator; Bill Webster.

1. Call to Order.

Chairman Gay called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed new members. W. Arute was seated as a voting member and a quorum was established (Gay, Jones, Robertson, Renshaw, Arute).

2. 6 Mohegan Avenue, DEEP General Permit Registration 4/40 Dock.

K. Neilson of Docko presented. He explained that the layout was almost identical to what the Commission saw previously but two changes had been made: 1) DEEP had informed them that in order to be eligible for a General Permit, the deck could not be wider than 4 feet so it had been reduced from 5 feet to 4 feet; and 2) the piles had been reduced to 13' as recommended at the last HMC meeting. The configuration is the same as it was previously and the same as the existing Sciame dock except the existing one is 6 feet wide. C. Renshaw noted that the Commission had previously stipulated that there be no lights and asked if any were proposed. K. Neilson stated 5 lights are shown low on the piles; they have louvered opening so that there is no glare off the dock but there is adequate lighting for night landings. He offered a proposed stipulation that the lights be on a 15 minute timer that is switch or radio controlled so that there would be no issue with them remaining on for long periods at night. Members discussed the lighting and agreed that the timer option addressed their concerns. In response to further questions from the Commission, K. Neilson stated that no lift or float was proposed; lifts are not eligible under the General Permit; and the two piles off the dock are 13 feet.

J. Gay moved to reaffirm the Commission's prior position on the dock and authorize it to go forward with the following stipulations: 1. there shall be no lift; and 2. the lights shall be on a 15 minute timer that is switch or radio controlled. S. Jones seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Gay, Jones, Robertson, Renshaw, Arute

Against: None

Abstained: None

3. Election of Officers.

S. Jones moved to nominate the current slate of officers: J. Gay as Chairman of the Harbor Management Commission, S. Scatterday as Vice Chairman, and C. Renshaw as Secretary. C. Robertson seconded the motion and the slate was approved unanimously.

For: Gay, Jones, Robertson, Renshaw, Arute

Against: None

Abstained: None

Resident Comment. At this time the Chair opened the floor to resident comment.

W. Webster referred to the Old Saybrook report on Sea Level Rise and indicated that he had copies if anyone would like one. He stated that the committee formed in Fenwick was currently considering a proposal to restore the dune along Sequassen Avenue and bring it back to about a 3 foot height planted with appropriate grasses in order to help protect the road. He stated that there would be a meeting on Thursday, July 7, 2016 with Sue Bailey from DEEP and Duncan Downie who has marked the general area of the proposed dune and he invited the Harbor Commission to attend. J. Gay, who is a member of the committee, and/or S. Jones will attend as well as F. Keeney, Burgess Liaison.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings (November 21, 2015).

C. Renshaw moved to accept the minutes of the November 21, 2015 meeting as submitted. C. Robertson seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

For: Gay, Jones, Robertson, Renshaw, Arute

Against: None

Abstained: None

5. Harbor Management Plan – Extension of Shoreline Planning Unit.

J. Gay stated that the Shoreline Planning Unit currently extends from the area of the Shenkman property to the pier. This area was originally set because it was thought to be economically impossible to build a dock anywhere beyond the pier. It has become apparent that cost does not preclude new docks and the Commission has been considering whether the Unit should be extended. He stated that he had not yet obtained a cost estimate from Geoff Steadman, the Commission's consultant, to prepare an amendment. Any amendment will need to follow a legal adoption process which will allow multiple opportunities for public comment. Members agreed that they should continue to pursue this subject and that they should also seek information regarding their legal authority relative to precluding new docks on properties with riparian rights.

6. Old Business

a. Breakwater / Borough Capital Plan

F. Keeney reported that the breakwater remains in the capital plan but because of the cost it is well down the list. The Borough will keep it permitted, but it will be expensive to proceed.

b. Dredging / Moorings

Dredging in South Cove is cost prohibitive and there is no financial aid available unless the area is considered a safe harbor.

c. Old Saybrook Police Presence on the Water

Old Saybrook has purchase a used boat from the Coast Guard. It went into service on July 1 and will continue in service until mid-September / early October. It is staffed by marine patrol officers and is budgeted for about 450 hours this year, although with the late start it will probably be on the water for only about 300 hours.

d. Yacht Club

There has been no action on bringing in electricity.

e. Pier

For the last several years the Commission has agreed to a "bandaid" approach to maintaining the west side and end of the pier because of budgetary restrictions. The total cost is about \$60,000 - \$70,000. It was suggested that the Commission recommend to the Burgesses that work on the pier be included in the FY17-18 budget. Members discussed whether the west side of the pier or the south side, which had not

previously been identified as a priority, should be addressed first and agreed to each look at the condition of the pier prior to the next meeting. At that meeting the Commission will formulate a recommendation to the Burgesses regarding budgeting for pier improvements, with consideration for phasing in the work.

7. Harbormaster Report.

J. Gay reported that the Harbormaster had indicated that they were maxed out on moorings and that he was concerned with the shallow water.

8. Other Business.

Fishing. Members noted that the Park Monitor has done a good job informing people that access across the dunes or Borough property to the area below the High Tide Line is restricted.

Docking at the Pier. Members noted that motor boats should not be allowed on the east side of the pier between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and docking on the west side of the pier should be limited to pick up and discharge of passengers, i.e. 15 minutes. F. Keeney will request that signs be posted so that the restriction can be enforced. Commission members were asked to help make the restriction known.

9. Adjournment.

J. Gay moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. S. Jones seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. (Gay, Jones, Robertson, Renshaw, Arute)

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn M. Ozols
Acting Recording Secretary