

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #07-14)
July 16, 2014

Location of Meeting: Conn-DOT HQ Building
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131

Attendance:
Commissioners

Present

John Johnson
Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner Redeker)
Tom Dubno
Mike Griffin
Stan Mickus
Tim Sullivan (for DECD Commissioner Smith)
Grant Westerson
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEEP Commissioner)

Absent

Dave LeVasseur/OPM (for Secretary Barnes)
Joe Riccio
Bob Ross
Dave Shuda

Guests

Deborah Donovan	Ned Farman	Don Frost	LT Meghan McGovern	Dave Rossiter
Joe Salvatore	Joel Severance	Bill Spicer	Johanna Somers	Alan Stevens

I. Call to Order:

In the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 0935. A quorum was present. The Vice Chairman asked for all present to introduce themselves starting with the Commissioners. Upon completion of the introductions the Vice Chairman reminded all of the sign-in sheets.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the June 18, 2014 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Commissioner Dubno, seconded by Commissioner Westerson, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

III Discussion Open to Public None offered.

IV Old Business:

Dredging Update –Joe Salvatore reported that projects were being finalized for the 2014-2015 dredging season. Projects being scheduled for the upcoming dredging season will be the Mystic River FNP (approximately 250K cu yds), Mystic River Auxiliary Channel dredging project (less than 25K cu yds) and Guilford Harbor FNP (approximately 53K cu yds) and marina dredging (7.7K cu yds) and infrastructure project. The 2014-15 dredging season begins October 1, 2014. In response to a question from Commissioner Westerson, Joe advised that dredging the Baldwin Bridge boat ramp approach was not a scheduled project at this time. However, maintenance dredging of the lower CT River and North Cove was being looked at as projects for the near future. The boat ramp could be included as part of the project. Since the boat ramp is a state ramp, George Wisker recommended that Mike Payton be notified of the dredging need for the boat ramp.

LIS AMSC/HSC Update – No CG members present, no report given.

Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) – Legislative Update –Tim Sullivan provided an update starting with the signing of PA 14-122 by the Governor on June 16, 2014. He advised that appointments to the Port Authority Working Group (PAWG) created by the legislation have started to be received. President Pro Tempore of the Senate (State Senator Williams) appointed CTMC Commissioner Stan Mickus on June 2, 2014. The PAWG is supposed to be in place within 90 days of the signing of the legislation. Tim reported that letters of interest have been received asking for the Governors consideration in appointment to the PAWG. In response to a question Tim stated that the PAWG is to consist of at least 13 members. Two will be the Secretary of the Treasury (or designee) and the DECD Commissioner (or Designee). The remaining members of the PAWG are to be appointed by the Governor and various legislative leaders. The legislative leaders' appointments are very specific. The legislation allows the DECD Commissioner to add additional people to the PAWG. Tim explained the difference between appointment to the CPA Board of Directors and the PAWG. Tim concluded that the PAWG has a specific mission and shelf life defined by the legislation. In response to a question, he estimated that the first PAWG meeting would be called by Commissioner Smith in mid-September and thereafter meetings would be called by a PAWG selected chairperson from among its ranks.

National Coast Guard Museum (NCGM) – Vice Chairman Johnson reported that the NCGM Association Board of Directors now had 9 members, the ninth being former USCG Commandant ADM Bob Papp. The Association is working hard raising funds for the project with over \$1M raised and rapidly approaching \$2M. The near term goal is to raise \$4-5M by the end of calendar year 2014. Architecture design is estimated to be \$1.5M. A fund raising event was held in Newport, RI that included the unveiling of a portrait of the USCGC EAGLE. The Vice Chairman estimated that the Association BOD would meet about 6 times a year for the time being. In response to a question from Tim Sullivan, the Vice Chairman stated that about \$50M is needed to cover design and construction costs. Fund raising to establish an endowment for operating costs would follow. The NCGM Association is working to get Congress to change the law to allow CG appropriated funds to be directly used toward the NCGM project.

V New Business:

Thames River Heritage Park (TRHP) –Deborah Donovan from seCTer, provided an overview and update on the Thames River Heritage Park initiative. A member of the TRHP Steering Committee for the past 6 months or so, she was involved in the project in its initial incarnation as legislated in 1987. The project was designated a regional priority project for Southeastern CT in the 2004 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, but went no further as funding was exhausted. The Avery-Copp House Foundation raised the viability of a park recently in an effort to reverse the trend of declining visitor numbers to the museums and historic sites in SECT. A consultant (Yale Urban Design Workshop) was hired and a new plan will be unveiled in September. Referring to the material that had been distributed electronically to the CTMC Commissioners and interested parties prior to the meeting, Deborah stated that the TRHP is to be a coordinated organization of historic sites in the Thames River basin with informative directional signage and interpretation. A core issue is moving people across the river. Recently State Senator Maynard has renewed the idea of a water taxi with a targeted start date for a limited trial service of September 2014. As indicated in the meeting package, DEEP organized a meeting of the stakeholders on May 30, 2014 to discuss the water taxi that included representatives from Cross Sound Ferry (CSF) as a technical advisor. CSF had previously investigated establishing a cross river water taxi for Pfizer. Although a water taxi service would initially focus on stops at Ft. Trumbull, the Groton dock at on Thames Street below Ft. Griswold, and the New London Waterfront Park, a stop at the USS NAUTILUS museum and use of the service for events such as Schooner Fest, OPSail and Sail Fest would be natural extensions. In response to a question, Deborah agreed that it might make more sense to postpone the trial service from September 2014 (the end of this tourist and boating season) to next spring (the beginning of the next tourist and boating season) but the trial is tied to the anniversary of a the Battle of Ft. Griswold. There are several history tour related water taxi service models throughout the country (Baltimore, Charleston, Syracuse, etc). The Southeast CT Council of Governments (SECCOG) has agreed to act as an intermediary for an RFP soliciting an operator. The Vice Chairman added that State Senator Maynard and State Representative Ritter successfully

sponsored Senate Bill 314 last session concerning Heritage Parks Advisory Boards. However, the resulting PA 14-43 did not contain any funding. As a "park", it is expected the DEEP will be the lead state agency.

Port of New London – Jesse Marshall, Chairman of the New London Port Authority (NLPA), provided a brief on the Port of New London. Captain Marshall is the senior captain of the Fisher Island Ferry. He described the Port of New London as one of the three CT deep draft ports with a controlling depth of 40 feet with the easiest in/out access of any of the CT ports. The harbor contains two ferry services, a large tug fleet and operation, a commercial shipyard, a large vessel construction facility, commercial fishing fleets and two liting terminals (DDLG and the former Hess facility). Commercial cargo ships and cruise ships make calls at the State Pier Facility. The NLPA has a fresh start after 2 previous iterations. The current Board of Directors (BOD) members have a mix of business, pleasure boat commercial shipping backgrounds. A new issue being addressed is the creation of the CPA, though State Senator Maynard assured the NLPA BOD at the May meeting that the CPA would not intrude upon the municipal port authorities. Chairman Marshall stated that he has had discussions with the Mayor and will have future discussions with the elected state representatives about getting a representative from New London on the PAWG. He stated that a priority for the NLPA BOD is to create a harbor management plan (HMP). Funding for an HMP has been requested from the Mayor and New London City Council. There was some discussion among members of the audience and Jesse Marshall on where funding could be sought and how much the creation of an HMP might cost.

Schooner Fest 2014 – The Vice Chairman informed all that Schooner Fest 2014 will be taking place on September 10-13, 2014. He also advised that the name of the event has been changed to the Connecticut Maritime Heritage Festival. The OPSail Connecticut committee is the sponsor. Fund raising is taking place for the event. Appearance fees are being offered to a select number of vessels. In addition to the visiting schooners, there will be educational activities for all ages as well as a chowder competition among local restaurants. It is anticipated that 20-25K people will visit the New London area for the festival.

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: All were reminded that **THERE IS NO CTMC MEETING IN AUGUST**. The next meeting of the CTMC will be 0930 at ConnDOT HQ on **Wednesday September 17, 2014**.

VIII Adjournment: -. A motion to adjourn was made by George Wisker, seconded by Commissioner Dubno and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM.