

**CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #09-13)
September 18, 2013**

Location of Meeting: ConnDOT Headquarters
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Joe Riccio
John Johnson
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)
Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)
Tom Dubno
Stan Mickus
Bob Ross
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEEP Commissioner)

Absent

Catherine Smith/Ron Angelo
Michael Griffin
Larry Miller
David Shuda

Guests

Ned Farman Martha Klimas Brent Pounds Dave Rossiter Joe Salvatore
Alan Stevens Grant Westerson

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman, Joe Riccio, called the meeting to order at 0932. A quorum was present. The Chairman asked for all present to introduce themselves starting with the Commissioners.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the July 17, 2013 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by John Johnson. Commissioner Dubno provided a second and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

III Discussion Open to Public:

Grant Westerson reminded all about the upcoming Norwalk Boat Show starting tomorrow on September 19, 2013. He encouraged all to attend and provided directions: Exit 16 off I-95, Norwalk Cove, Calf Pasture Road. Follow the signs. In response to a question Grant also mentioned that the Newport Boat Show was held last weekend, and although he didn't have any official attendance figures, it was reported to have been well attended year, taking advantage of a good weather day in Newport. Grant was asked when the Connecticut Marine Trades show in Hartford would be held, to which he responded January 23-26, 2014. He also reported that the show wasn't competing with other shows on that date, and shared some of the background on the New York City Boat Show at the Javits Convention Center, declining attendance and the rationale behind picking dates in the current market.

IV Old Business:

Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore reported that two federal projects will be taking place during the 2013-2014 dredging season. Norwalk Harbor Phase III should be starting early October disposing approximately 150,000 cubic yards of material in the Central Long Island Sound (CLIS) disposal area. The second major project is the removal of approximately 810,000 cubic yards of material from the New Haven Harbor, Federal Navigation Channel. The New Haven material will be the cap material for the Norwalk project out at CLIS and any other project needing a cap. The contract for both projects was awarded to Cashman out of Massachusetts. The bid came in at \$8.5 million, under the \$10million estimate. Both projects will be paid by Federal funds, thus no State funding will be used. There was some discussion on the price per

cubic yard (\$10.71) and the benefit of both projects being bid together/awarded to a single contractor (timing of capping material). There was a lengthy discussion about terminals and docks getting permission to dredge in time to take advantage of the cap from the New Haven project. Commissioner Dubno offered that Gateway and the other New Haven Terminals would be dredging their respective terminals to take advantage of the capping material. Joe Salvatore solicited for other smaller projects that might need capping.

LIS HSC/AMSC Update – Chairman Riccio noted that no CG personnel were present to provide an update. Chuck Beck reported that due to the recent incident at Washington Navy Yard, some security changes were being implemented at USCG Base New Haven. The measures will affect people attending public meetings held on Base. USCG security will deny entry to individuals unless they have provided advanced notification of their intention to attend the meeting. The 2014 CTMC meeting schedule will be on the October agenda.

National Freight Advisory Committee – Commissioner Wise reported that a meeting of the NFAC was held in June, but the minutes have yet to be released. Outgoing Transportation Secretary, LaHood has said that over the next two years we are looking to the National Freight Advisory Committee to provide specific recommendations that can be considered for ways to improve freight movement. The NFAC has 47 members of which only 6 have a connection to shipping. The shipping and trucking industry believe they are under represented. Commissioner Wise will watch for the minutes, and provide updates at future meetings as appropriate.

Connecticut Schooner Fest – Vice Chairman Johnson reported that the weather for Schooner Fest (12-15 Sept) was fabulous. Overall, the event was a success. The Chowder Fest was a great success with all 500 tickets being sold. The merchants in town were very, very pleased. The event brought visitors to all parts of New London for three and a half days and two and a half days in Mystic. The event has been scheduled for September 10–14, 2014 already, and may take place in New London and Mystic again, or it may broaden to include Bridgeport. The Governor has declared the second week of September as a Maritime Heritage week, so the Schooner Fest event will continue to help commemorate and celebrate that designation. A wrap up meeting is scheduled for 4 PM Wednesday September 25, 2013 at the Gallery at Firehouse Square in New London.

Coast Guard Museum Update – Vice Chairman Johnson reported that a firm was hired in late August 2013 to be the fund coordinators and fund raising specialists. Local efforts have raised approximately \$160K. Vice Chairman Johnson reported he is a member of the Board of Directors, which is currently set at eight members but may expand to fifteen. Former Commandant of the Coast Guard, ADM Jim Loy, was just added to the Board. Bob Ross reported that there have been two meetings with AMTRAK since July to discuss the project. The focus of the meetings has been the pedestrian bridge over the rail tracks. He added that he was impressed with the cooperative nature of AMTRAK.

Discussion of the National Coast Guard Museum reminded George Wisker the Coast Guard Academy' EAGLE Pier renovation project. The project includes rebuilding the pier structure and some dredging for which the Academy recently received the Water Quality Certificate (permit). The dredge material will be going to Central Long Island Sound. The project is expected to start on October 1, 2013.

Joe Salvatore stated he forgot to mention during his dredging update that Wethersfield Cove would be going forward as a third (low use navigation) federal project. Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of material will be removed and relocated down river near Gildersleeve Island.

V New Business:

P.O.R.T.S. – Chuck Beck provided some background and the meaning of the acronym. Physical Oceanographic Real Time System (PORTS) exists in New Haven at this time. There is a plan to upgrade the New Haven PORTS station as well as two other tide stations; one in New London and one in Bridgeport. The upgrades will be port infrastructure improvement capital

project using some of the port infrastructure money. The plan would also include a provision for five years of maintenance at all three locations in the contract. The New Haven Port Authority recently approved providing \$5,000 to NOAA for one year maintenance of the New Haven PORTS station. Bridgeport Port Authority has submitted a letter in support of the port infrastructure improvement plan. The New Haven Port Authority has approved drafting a letter of support for the plan, and it is anticipated that New London will support the plan with a letter in the near future. A draft letter was reviewed by the Commission, and a motion to send the letter of support was made by George Wisker and seconded by Commissioner Wise. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Chuck Beck reported that the project estimate was \$250,000, which includes maintenance of the three locations for five years. The project would require approval by the Bond Commission.

Port Development – Chairman Riccio called opened the discussion then in the absence of a representative from DECD called upon Commissioner Ross for an update on implementation of recommendations made in the CT Port Authority legislation. Commissioner Ross reported that DECD Commissioner Smith was planning to begin “advanced work” on standing up the Connecticut Port Authority in anticipation of legislation creating a Connecticut Port Authority passing into law in the next legislative session which is scheduled to begin in February 2014. Chairman Riccio added that he had exchanged emails with a former acquaintance (Mitsos) now representing a Chinese investment group interested in developing a container service at a CT port. Mr. Mitsos was referred to the state agencies (DECD/DOT). One of the group was a representative from the Development Bank of China. Two others were business development people from Stamford. Commissioner Ross stated that the group had met with DECD who referred them to Gateway Terminals. Commissioner Dubno added that the investment group had met with Gateway. The bottom line assessment is that if the state comes up with a plan the investment group would be interested in financing some of the development in addition to the state.

Commissioner Ross then asked to add something of note to the agenda. He informed the Commission that he would be attending the first meeting of the Military Occupational Specialty Task Force this afternoon. The 14 member Task Force was created last legislative session. The Task Force will attempt to reconcile state occupational training requirements and certificates with training that were received by people during their military service. The Task Force was authorized for 60 days, and is expected to make recommendations.

VI Executive Session: None called.

VII Date of Next Meeting: All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at the **Fort Trumbull Conference Center located at Fort Trumbull in New London, CT at 0930 on Wednesday October 16, 2013.**

VIII Adjournment: - A motion to adjourn was made by the Vice Chairman, seconded by George Wisker and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:06.