

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #09-14)
September 17, 2014

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

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

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

Absent

Dave LeVasseur/OPM (for Secretary Barnes)
Mike Griffin
Dave Shuda

Guests

Ned Farman Martha Klimas Dave Rossiter Joe Salvatore Bill Spicer

I. Call to Order:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 0930. 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 16, 2014 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Vice Chairman Johnson, 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 on upcoming projects. The Guilford Harbor FNP dredging project funded by federal Hurricane Sandy money was expecting to open bids in a week or so. The Guilford Town Marina dredging and pile repair is an option to the FNP using state port infrastructure improvement funds. George Wisker added that the FNP will remove approximately 53K cuyrds and the Marina 7K cuyrds some of which is of good grade sand. All of the good material will be relocated to Hammonasset State Park Beach. Bids are expected to be opened on the Mystic River dredging project next week. The Mystic River dredging project has three parts; the Mystic River FNP (approximately 250K cuyrds), the Mystic River Auxiliary Channel dredging project (less than 25K cuyrds) and Secondary Auxiliary Channel of unknown quantity at this time. The NYDOS has submitted an objection to the FNP under their CZM rights. The Army Corps has indicated that the minus an injunction, objection will not delay the FNP project. The Auxiliary Channels dredge work is in peril due to expected objections by the NYDOS which will negatively affect 6-7 local marinas. There was some additional discussion on the CZM objection and appeal process.

Joe provided an update on the Eastern Long Island sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (ELIS SEIS). He advised that a conference call had taken place on 9/5/14 among EPA, DOT, DEEP and UConn Avery Point contracted to perform the work). UConn presented their draft findings and model. The information is not yet public. A draft report is expected in Dec/Jan. Joe

indicated that it is highly possible for the ELIS SEIS to be completed before the LIS DMMP. Commissioner Ross emphasized the need to highlight UConn's involvement once the information goes public.

LIS AMSC/HSC Update – No CG members present, no report given. Chuck Beck did reference the material sent to the CTMC email distribution list provided by Scot Graham related to the FY 2014 Port Security Grants awarded to entities within the CG Sector LIS AOR.

Connecticut Port Authority (CPA) – Legislative Update –Tim Sullivan provided an update noting the list of appointments document dated Sept 2nd in the meeting package. He advised that Commissioner Smith had extended invitations to participate in the Port Authority Working Group (PAWG) to the Commissioners of DEEP and DOT as well as the Secretary of OPM. He also reported that the Governor has appointed Pam Elkow and Bill Gash as two of his three appointments. DECD Commissioner Smith has added Bob Ross and Andy Anastasio. The first meeting of the PAWG is expected to take place in Hartford on October 1st though a specific location and time are TBD.

National Coast Guard Museum (NCGM) – Vice Chairman Johnson reported that the NCGM Association Board of Directors is in the quiet phase. John Johnson stated the he was about to make a west coast trip to discuss donations with cruise ship industry leaders. A Secretary's Circle is being formed consisting of past DOT Secretaries and spearheaded by former DOT Secretary Norman Mineta. The Circle will sponsor fund raisers (dinners) throughout the country. Commissioner Ross added that the state has completed the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for the pedestrian bridge part for the CG Museum project. The final review of the EIE is expected in October. Once complete it will be sent to CT OPM for approval then bid for design. In response to a question about the solicitation for public comments, it was reported that not a lot had been received but all would be addressed Vice Chairman Johnson added that there had been 3 to 4 letters to the editor of the New London Day expressing the opinion that the CG Museum should be built at the original site at Fort Trumbull.

Thames River Heritage Park (TRHP) – Commissioner Mickus reported that the trial runs of the water taxi associated with the development of the TRHP have gone extremely well. A meeting was to take place later today as a hot wash. It was reported that the taxi service handled approximately 1,000 people per day of operation between the hours of 1100 and 2100 drawing passengers from both sides of the River. Cross Sound Ferry (CSF) provided the crew at cost. Private donations covered the costs of operations. The boat was provided by Mystic Seaport and could carry 43 passengers plus a crew of 2. The rides were free of charge for the trial runs.

Maritime Heritage Festival/ Schooner Fest 2014 – The Vice Chairman informed all that Schooner Fest 2014 took place this last weekend September 10-13, 2014. He advised that the event was very successful. The Chowder completion among 18 local restaurants was extremely well received with all 550 tickets being sold. Gaspar won the chowder competition. Four schooners participated in the race (Amistad, Brilliant, Mystic Whaler and Tyrone) won by Brilliant. Planning is already underway for Maritime Heritage Festival/ Schooner Fest 2015

V New Business:

CTMC 2015 Meeting Schedule – The Chairman drew attention to the draft 2015 CTMC meeting schedule that was part of the meeting package. After reviewing, Commissioner Ross moved to accept the schedule as drafted. The motion was seconded by George Wisker and passed by unanimous vote. CTMC Meetings will take place on the third Wednesday of each month (except August) at the CTDOT HQ building in Newington starting at 0930.

VI Executive Session – none held.

VII Date of Next Meeting: All were reminded that the next meeting of the CTMC will be 0930 at ConnDOT HQ on **Wednesday October 15, 2014.**

VIII Adjournment: - Before entertaining a motion to adjourn, Tim Sullivan advised all of the 2014 Tiger Grant Award to NECR/G&W Rail Road. He described the press event held at the State Pier Facility last Friday September 12th as a great day. Governor Malloy, Senators Blumenthal and Murphy and Congressman Courtney were all present and spoke. The Chairman reminded all that the CTMC had provided a letter of support to NECR as part of the application. Tim also inquired if anybody had gotten any feedback on the recent cruise ship visit to New London. None was offered

A motion to adjourn was made by The Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Wise and passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.