

**Five Mile River Commission
Minutes
January 11, 2012**

Commission members in attendance:

Matthew Marion, Chairman
John deRegt
William Jessup
Dirk Leasure
Ray Meurer, Harbor Superintendent
David Snyder, Assistant Harbor Superintendent

Guests:

Dick Harris, Principal Investigator, Staff Scientist/Director, Harbor Watch Program,
Earthplace, Westport, CT

Peter Fraboni, Associate Director & QA/QC Officer, Harbor Watch Program,
Earthplace, Westport, CT

Maria Barker, 55 Rowayton Ave., Rowayton, CT

Matthew Marion took the chair at 7:36 p.m. and invited the guests to report on the results of their studies of the Five Mile River watershed that begins in New Canaan and ends at White's Bridge.

Mr. Harris and Mr. Fraboni noted water samples were taken at 15 stations May – September 2011 and tested for nitrogen, phosphorous and E. coli bacteria. The upper portion of the watershed was relatively clean. The lower half showed elevated bacteria counts due to increased housing density, partially compromised septic systems, paved over land and storm water runoff. The solution to this problem includes reducing the use of lawn fertilizers, restoring riparian buffers, reducing geese populations, pumping septic tanks regularly and managing pet waste.

Funding for the study was provided by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the New Canaan Community Foundation. This funding is no longer available and the Harbor Watch Program is seeking additional financial support.

Chairman Marion thanked the guests for their informative report. He noted that

the jurisdiction of the Five Mile River Commission begins at Whites Bridge and ends at the mouth of the Five Mile River. Chairman Marion also noted the ordinances governing the Commission restrict expenditures to maintenance dredging and the costs of day-to-day operation of the river.

The guests departed at 9:05 p.m.

William Jessup reported briefly on his studies of dredging, harbor management plans and two meeting he attended on these two subjects. Mr. Jessup's written report on these subjects is included in the minutes of the November 10, 2011 meeting of the commission.

Meeting dates for 2012 were agreed on as follows: January 11, February 9, March 8, April 26, June 7, September 20 and November 15.

The harbor superintendent submitted the following report.

Tammy Papp, administrative support, reported 2011 income of \$44,100 and expenses of \$11,568. A copy of Mrs. Papp's report is attached.

Sal Iannacone, controller's office, City of Norwalk, annual report of income and expenses showed a total of \$478,732.45 in the Five Mile River Commission account. A copy of Mr. Iannacone's report is attached.

It was agreed to invite boatyard and marina operators to the February 9, 2012, commission meeting to discuss our mutual interests and concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

The next meeting of the commission is February 9, 2012..

All meetings are held in the Boardroom of the Rowayton Community Center, 33 Highland Ave., Rowayton, CT beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Meurer
Harbor Superintendent