

**Five Mile River Commission Minutes  
February 28, 2013**

**Commission members in attendance:**

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

**Guests:**

Tony Carlo, lobsterman, Norwalk, Conn.

Chairman Marion took the chair at 7:39 p.m.

The Commission reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes of the January 17, 2013, meeting.

Funding of future dredging of the Five Mile River was discussed, including the cost of recent dredging projects in Connecticut. The consensus is that the cost of the next dredging of the Five Mile River would be approximately \$2.5 - 3 million.

The Commission reviewed the dock application covering 21/25 Rowayton Avenue. The Commission discussed proposed sea wall repairs and a shared dock between 21 and 25 Rowayton Ave. Based on the Commission's discussion and subsequent site visits by all Commissioners, Chairman Marion will draft a response to the DEEP's request for comments.

Guest Tony Carlo noted that lobster catches continue to fall due to the use of chemicals released into the waters of Long Island Sound to combat the west Nile virus. Mr. Carlo asked for an exemption from paying the harbor use fee. However, the Commission declined to grant the exemption request based on Mr. DiCarlo's submission and, instead, requested that Mr. DiCarlo amplify his reasons in writing for the Commission's further consideration.

The Commission next discussed the proposed increase in the harbor use fees which was duly noticed by advance publication in *The Norwalk Hour*, *Norwalk Citizen News*, *Darien Times*, *Darien News* and *Five Mile River Currents*. Mr. Carlo was the only person to attend the Public Hearing. The Commission unanimously approved the proposed use fee increases, effective immediately.

Financial reports from Tammy Papp showed year-end 2012 income of \$43,600 and expenses of \$10,505. Year-to-date income for 2013 is \$15,700 and expenses total \$1,584.

The Harbor Superintendent reported that a section of fixed pier is aground near 114 Five Mile River Road and that he is attempting to identify the owner. He also noted boatyard and marina operators will be invited to attend the April 11 meeting to share their interests and concerns regarding the river.

A discussion of nonpayment of the harbor use fee ensued. The Commission agreed that beginning this year, boat owners who do not pay the harbor use fee will be served with a "Notice of Violation of Ordinances".

The Commission next discussed the harbor superintendent's use of the internet to send out mooring permit renewals in order to eliminate the costs of postage, printing and the delay of mailing the renewals. The Harbor Superintendent's current email list of all permit holders makes this possible. In addition, the harbor superintendent maintains a similar email list of owners who keep their boats at marinas, boatyards and private docks. Thus, he can remind boat owners to send in their harbor use fee applications along with their summer slip rental contracts. The Commission unanimously approved this change of procedure.

The remaining meeting dates for 2013 are April 11, June 6, August 1, October 3 and November 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray Meurer  
Harbor Superintendent