

**Five Mile River Commission
January 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes
The Boardroom, Rowayton Community Center
33 Highland Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853**

Commission members in attendance:

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

Guests:

Norman Edwards, Owner, Edwards Marine
Phi Koenig, Yard Manager, Boatworks
George Ward, Yard Manager, Five Mile River Works
Mary Ilchert, Owner, Five Mile River Works

Matthew Marion took the chair at 7:29 p.m.

Chairman Marion reported the Commissioners had reviewed and unanimously approved the December 3, 2015 meeting minutes electronically, subject to confirmation of approval at the Commission's next meeting, and the minutes had been filed electronically with Darien and Norwalk within the statutory period. By vote, the Commissioners unanimously confirmed their approval of the December 3rd minutes. Public notice of the scheduled January 14, 2016 meeting was timely provided and the agenda timely filed with the Town of Darien and the City of Norwalk.

Chairman Marion welcomed the guests. He noted the primary focus of the meeting was the newly instituted 2016 Ground Tackle Inspection Sticker Program, which formalizes the certifications of ground tackle inspections and repairs for boats moored in Five Mile River, and now requires that moorings be stickered to prove compliance with the program. The protocol and inspection form were emailed to the marine service providers (MSPs) prior to the meeting so they would have an opportunity to review the documents.

The program includes a "Ground Tackle Inspection/Maintenance Form" to be used by Marine Service Providers (MSP) and boat owners to certify that such inspections are properly and timely executed. Chairman Marion reviewed the protocol, noting that starting in 2016 all ground tackle must be inspected bi-annually outside of the normal boating season (i.e., prior to April 15th and after October 31st). Under the new program, MSPs will receive a Ground Tackle Inspection/ Maintenance Form for each boat they service from the Harbour Superintendent. The form will be prefilled out with the mooring location and information related to the boat owner and covered boat. Upon completion of inspection/repairs, the inspector will certify in writing the condition of the ground tackle and its adequacy for the covered boat, and return the

form to the Harbor Superintendent, who will then arrange for the boat owner to certify separately the completion of the work and adequacy of the ground tackle for the boat.

After a detailed review of the protocol and the inspection form, a general discussion ensued with unanimous agreement that all present understood and supported the process and would comply with the new protocol. The guests left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

The Harbor Superintendent updated the Commission about harbor use fee collections:

- 2015 mooring permit holders were sent a renewal notice for 2016;
- Marina operators were provided with use fee applications to send to their customers along with their slip contract for 2016;
- Three marinas had agreed to collect the use fee directly from their customers; and
- A small minority of boat owners who kept boats at a marina had not paid the 2015 harbor use fee.

Commissioner Leasure inquired what steps were being taken to collect the remaining unpaid 2015 use fees. The Harbor Superintendent reiterated he would continue to bill the 2015 nonpayers, and the Commissioners discussed other enforcement steps that might be taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

The remaining regularly scheduled 2016 meeting dates are February 25, March 31, May 5, June 16, July 28, October 20 and December 8.

The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Rowayton Community Center, 33 Highland Avenue, Rowayton, Conn.

Respectively submitted,
Ray Meurer
Harbor Superintendent