

Stamford Harbor Management Commission (SHMC) - Applications Review Committee Minutes

Date: February 5, 2024
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Remotely on Zoom
Roll Call: In Attendance: Chairman Sam Abernethy; Damian Ortelli, Paul Adelberg and Robert Karp; Consultant Geoff Steadman; and AAC Maria Vazquez-Goncalves.

1. The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Abernethy at approximately 5:32 p.m.
2. Review and Approval of January 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Adelberg moved to approve January 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Ortelli

Unanimously Approved

3. Referral of CSPR 1187 – Howard Novick, 190 Davenport Drive, Stamford, CT. The applicant is proposing to complete an existing seawall. Property is located within the CAM boundary. Last month the SHMC reviewed the Applicant's pre-application plans for a DEEP Permit for the same proposed project with the understanding that since the proposed project constitutes a shoreline flood and erosion control structure it also requires Coastal Site Plan Review by the Zoning Commission. The SHMC had no objection to those pre-application plans being included in a permit application for submittal to DEEP. The now-submitted CSPR plans are the same plans as the pre-application plans submitted for the DEEP Permit.

Commissioner Adelberg made a motion to recommend to the SHMC a finding of no objection to the CSPR plans with the understanding that the SHMC reserves its right to provide additional comments during the CSPR process and with the understandings that: 1) all proposed work will be conducted within the original footprint of the existing wall; 2) DEEP has not issued a Notice of Violation to the Applicant; and 3) best management practices will be employed during construction to ensure no adverse impacts on environmental quality in the Harbor Management Area.

Seconded by Commissioner Ortelli

Unanimously Approved

Following additional discussion, Commissioner Adelberg amended the motion to recommend to the SHMC a finding of consistency with the HMP which supports timely repair and maintenance of existing shore protection structures needed to protect existing development and to provide the same comments and understandings as expressed in the previous motion and provided no issues are raised during the DEEP review process.

Seconded by Commissioner Ortelli

Unanimously Approved

8. Old Business:

- Discussion on the CT DEEP LWRD License Application Pre-Submission Consultation Form, Shellfish Commission – Submitted by James J. Bajek, LLC for John M. Ciuffo, 76 Sea Beach Drive, Stamford, CT. The Applicant is proposing a recreational dock modification. Last month, the documents were mistakenly mailed to the Government Center and were not received. Mr. Bajek emailed them prior to tonight's meeting. This is the same project that was reviewed last month for preliminary Harbor

Management review. There is no indication that the proposed project will affect shellfish resources or shell fishing opportunities.

Commissioner Karp made a motion to recommend to the SHMC, acting as the Stamford Shellfish Commission, a finding of no objection to the pre-submission plans being included in a permit application to DEEP with the understanding that the SHMC reserves its right to provide additional comments during the DEEP review process, including comments based on any input from the CT Bureau of Aquaculture.

Seconded by Commissioner Adelberg Unanimously Approved

- Geoff Steadman updated the commissioners on the “Initiatives to achieve legislative amendments to clarify and uphold Harbor Management authority”.
- Commissioner Karp discussed the draft form that Commissioner Ortelli submitted about a year ago to streamline/summarize the SHMC’s Application Review comments that are provided to City boards, including the Zoning Board. Commissioners agreed to pursue and test this approach.
- SHMC – Application Review Process for Connecticut DEEP Permits - Flow Charts: no new update.
- SHMC – Application Review Process for Coastal Site Plan Approvals - Flow Charts: no new update.

9. New Business:

- Mr. Steadman reported on the 2/3/24 state-wide meeting of municipal shellfish commissions that he attended on behalf of the SHMC in New Haven.
- Mr. Steadman also reported on a discussion involving SHMC Chairman Dr. Ortelli and Land-Use Bureau Chief Blessing in response to an inquiry by Safe Harbor Marina concerning the application review process for expansion of the marina’s existing facilities on the East Branch of Stamford Harbor.

10. Next scheduled meeting Monday, March 4, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Adelberg made a motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Commissioner Karp Unanimously Approved

Respectfully Submitted by
Maria Vazquez-Goncalves
February 7, 2024