

Stamford Harbor Master's Report 07/19/2016

Moorings.

- Renewals are now more or less complete. Mooring status (*as of 7/15/2016*);
 - Approved - 75
 - Awaiting inspection - 04
 - Under review - 05
 - EXPIRED Renewal not received - 06
 - Held inactive for 2016 season - 06
 - Not being renewed - 11

See also **MOORING CARRY OVER FROM THE JUNE REPORT** later in this report.

Harbor Activity

- The past month has been busy with a wide variety of tasks being undertaken by both Harbor Master and Police boats including;
 - Conveying injured fisherperson (a lady) to shore for urgent medical attention.
 - The Deputy Harbor Master assisted Customs and Border Security agents locate a yacht believed to be 'somewhere' in the harbor.
 - I have been working with CT Dept. of Aquaculture and CT State Dept. of Public Health Services to verify the transfer of seed oysters to beds within the Harbor Commission area.
- The new water taxi has started to operate. It presently seems to be properly run with no complaints or other issues.
- The city fireworks went off very well with the 'on-the-water' aspects running very smoothly thanks, in large part, to the provision of a proper tug this year. City boats commenced operations at about 08:00 and the final 2 (BM and EK) standing down at 00:30.
- The 4th July weekend was very busy with various city assets (Police and Harbor Master) attending a variety of incidents, including;
 - a yacht breaking free from its mooring and grounding on rocks inside of the breakwater. This was recovered by Sgt. Monck with the assistance of a passing canoeist who ran a tow line due to shallow water (See figure 1). The yacht was returned to its mooring and secured with a mooring line from the Harbor Commission boat. Replacement of the line is being 'negotiated' with the yacht's owner. (Matter still not resolved 7/18/2016)
 - collision with unoccupied boat, offender making off.
 - 'terminated voyages' due to lack of life saving gear.
- On 14th July another vessel, 37' S/V *Talisman* broke free from its mooring and drifted through the SYC mooring field striking a number of boats. It was recovered and secured by dock staff from SYC. An initial inquiry indicates severe wastage on the broken riser chain which had broken.
- A 3rd vessel also broke free from a harbor mooring and was finally recovered by the Police Harbor Unit some distance outside of the harbor.



Figure 1

Harbor Commission boat.

- The trim/tilt (T/T) unit of the engine of the Harbor Commission boat has failed resulting in the engine being locked in the 'full-down' position. (This is an item that wears and requires periodic replacement). The Repairs were authorized by the Chairman and the boat was taken to Rex Marine in Norwalk on Tuesday 12th for the

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work to be completed. I have been using my own boat for necessary on the water tasks while the Commission boat is out of service. (**UPDATE**; Boat returned to service on Saturday 16th. Repairs came in almost \$500 under estimate).

- The boat will need to take fuel before the weekend.
- **MOORING CARRY OVER FROM THE JUNE REPORT.** *I would like guidance or instruction from the commission regarding what should be done with regards to unpermitted/non-compliant moorings.*
 - *This matter is emphasized this month in light of the previously mentioned 2 yachts that have broken free from moorings and caused damage within the harbor.*
 - *Contact with some owners of unpermitted moorings has failed to produce a response while some are 'owner unknown/untraceable.'*
 - *Old Greenwich Marine has already provided a quotation for removal of moorings and transport to the nearest city facility of \$125 per mooring (presented to the commission at the 2/16/16 meeting).*
 - *If you authorize my actions to remove, how is the cost to be processed? (Is Old Greenwich Marine already an approved city vendor?)*
 - *Likewise, the derelict docks inside the Hurricane barrier are now 50% broken up and sunk. Their removal is now needed with some urgency.*

Garbage and Debris

- Debris in the harbor is continuing to cause risks to navigation and property. Multiple large pieces of floating debris are being recovered from the harbor on a regular basis. (Figure 2) shows a 9' length of timber, weighing in the region of 150-200 lbs recovered from the East Branch by the Police Boat and the Harbor Master last Saturday (16th). Had this been struck by a recreational boat, injury and damage could have resulted. It is also big enough to cause propulsion 'issues' to working tugs within the harbor. The assistance of staff at the Harbor Point Fuel Dock in securing some even larger sections should be noted and acknowledged.
- Funds for removal of unpermitted moorings and similar hazards and the Commissions guidance is requested.



Figure 2

Expenses outstanding

Harbor Master \$ 0.00

Respectfully submitted

Captain Eric Knott

State Harbor Master

Captain Yale Greenman

State Deputy Harbor Master