

**NHPA Minutes Meeting #161**  
**May 6, 2021**  
held *virtually* at 5:30 pm on zoom.

**Commissioners Present:** John Abbagnaro, Chair, Patricia Drax, Treasurer; Giovanni Zinn, Joseph Wraithwall, Jody Ortiz,  
Vice Chair (by phone call in), Matt Desfosses

**Staff Present:** Maggie Targove, Judith Sheiffele, Kayla Wallace

**Public:** Atty Caroline Cone, Atty John Casey, Lt. Jason Rentkowicz

Chair John Abbagnaro called the meeting to order at 5:40PM

A. Minutes of the April: Commissioner Drax made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Wraithwall seconded the motion. Motion passed and April minutes were unanimously approved.

B. Financial: Treasurer Drax reviewed the March 2021 reconciled bank statements and found all to be in good financial order. Commissioner Wraithwall made a motion to approve the report which was seconded by Chair Abbagnaro. Financial report was approved unanimously.

C. Updates:

1. CPA – Ms Sheiffele reported that they are continuing to negotiate with DOT & OMB on the DOT parcels remaining with the New Haven port district. They have secured the bond funding for \$751,000 at the Commission.

2. CMC – Bill Gash reported on the fully supported dredged material site appeal, that Attorney Casey has, summarized below, in the amicus brief.

3. Army Corps of Engineers – Ms. Sheiffele reported we are still moving toward the 2023 operational start and that CPA and the Army Corps should be entering into an agreement with the next 3-4 months for our local share of the project

Other Business- Attorney John Casey of Robinson & Cole summarized for the Board a brief history of the Amicus Brief. Attorney Casey has been our representation in the US Court of Appeals, 2nd District, regarding the ELDS designation which New Haven Port Authority has signed on for appeal to the EPA.

E. New Business: 1. Letter of Support from the Board, for Gateway's Infrastructure grant application due in June 2021. Maggie will attach for June meeting & vote.

2. Ratification of retainer agreement: The Board voted unanimously to accept the resolution (see attached) of NHPA approving our participation in the Amicus Curiae Brief to the Appellate Court and ratifying the Chairman's execution of the retainer agreement with Robinson & Cole to file the Amicus Curiae Brief. Commissioner Drax made the motion to accept the resolution and Commissioner Desfosses seconded the motion. Brief was filed on 5/6/2021.

F. Executive Director Report: 1. Lt. Rentkowicz, East Shore district manager, joined the meeting and reported that curtailing atv/motorcycle activity is a high priority in the department. The teams of patrol and plain clothes officers have already proven effective. They have ticketed (\$1000) and taken possession of quite a few motorcycles. The planning continues with different scenarios on how to contain thousands of cyclists, on July 11, 2021, descending on the port. He will keep us updated.

2. Permission to access DOT property was requested by Ms. Targove for the purpose of environmental testing. The State would like a definitive time frame before they agree. Ms. Sheiffele will get back to me regarding the time parameters to give to the State. Note\* under Executive Session 1, 135 Fulton St... was discussed in public session, as that

parcel would be included in environmental testing. The Board agreed that no access would take place without an agreement to pay all fees and insuring both the State and NHPA.

No Public Comment

Executive Session: Discussion on Parcel 3 Attorney Cone reported the transfer deed for Parcel 3, from DOT back to NHPA is in the signature stage for sign off. She gave a brief history of the events of Parcel 3, since 2006 when DOT took an easement of the .8 acre site for building the Q bridge. The parcel should have been returned to NHPA upon completion of the Q Bridge in 2017.

D. 1. CT Port Authority – no report. They did not meet in March. They also canceled the April meeting.

D2. Ct. Maritime Coalition – no report

D3. Dredging Project - Ms. Sheffele reported that Army Corps has decided the Cross Sound Cable relocation will not be included in our projects budget. This should make our dredging project more fundable. However we are waiting on the federal budget.

E. New Business: 1. Chairman Abbagnaro formally welcomed Commissioner Joseph Wraithwall to the Board.

E2. Ms Targove gave a brief report on Safety Kleen’s permit process and approval for the tanks. Safety Kleen has been a good partner in the port. They have done what they said they would do; example is the rail spur.

E3. Ms Targove was briefed by NH police on the motorcycle rally in July and the continuing problems of ATVs and cycles in different pockets of the City. Lt Rentkowicz talked of PD planning efforts for both instances and we will be kept up to date monthly on their planning. Right now, many plans and directions are being considered.

Chairman Abbagnaro reported that he was invited to attend the zoom, on April 7<sup>th</sup>, for Environmental Advisory Council group, to discuss a plan to manage the idling of truckers waiting for road salt. Maggie reported the garbage in the port has become a big problem. She will meet with LCI specialist this week for a walk through to determine whose property it is on.

Chairman Abbagnaro stated that the Board should go into a Executive Session to discuss potential acquisition and price of port real estate. Commissioner Mascola made such motion and Commissioner Zinn seconded. It was unanimously approved. The Board went into Executive Session at 6:07

Chairman Abbagnaro made a motion to end Executive Session at 6:20. It was moved by Commissioner Zinn and seconded by Commissioner Drax.

Chairman Abbagnaro asked for a motion to adjourn at 6:20pm. Commissioner Mascola moved the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Drax. Unanimously voted to adjourn.