

**NEW HAVEN PORT AUTHORITY
MINUTES
MEETING #165
SEPTEMBER 2, 2021**

Commissioners Present: Jody Ortiz, Vice Chair, Patricia Drax, Treasurer, Matt Desfosses, Joey Wraithwall, Giovanni Zinn, John Abbagnaro*
Staff Present: Judi Sheiffele, Kala Wallace
Others: Carolyn Kone, Counsel

AGENDA

Interim ED, Judi Sheiffele explained that John Abbagnaro is temporarily stepping down as Chair, creating a vacancy requiring the board to elect a new chair.

1. Election to Fill Vacancy(ies)

Article VI of By-Laws of the New Haven Port Authority, Section B. Election Term: The officers shall be elected at the next scheduled meeting following the Annual Meeting. Officers shall serve terms of one (1) year each or until their successors are elected and qualified. Vacancies in an office arising from any cause may be filled at any regular or special meeting of the Commission.

Commissioner Desfosses, who had previously served as Chair volunteered to assume the seat during Mr. Abbagnaro's absence. Commissioner Zinn made a motion to elect Commissioner Desfosses as Acting, Chair, seconded by Commissioner Drax; a vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Desfosses called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM

MINUTES

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 5, 2021

Commissioner Drax suggested several grammatical and typographical corrections be made to the proposed minutes. Upon a motion by Commissioner Zinn to approve the Minutes of the August 5 meeting with the proposed corrections, seconded by Commissioner Ortiz a vote was taken and minutes were unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

3. Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement for period ending July 31, 2021

4. Review of Bank Statements and Reconciliations

Commissioner Drax reported that she had reviewed the P&L and the Balance Sheet and the Reconciliations and found them to be all in good order, noting that the one receivable on the Balance Sheet is attributable to a bookkeeping error and would be corrected on the next report.

UPDATES

Connecticut Maritime Coalition. No representative from CMC present.

Connecticut Port Authority

ACOE – Channel Deepening Project

New Haven Cooperative

Environmental Advisory Council

Ms. Sheiffele reported that CPA had held a full board meeting on August 10 and that the agenda items all involved the construction activities at the State Pier in New London. With respect to the Channel

Deepening, we are still awaiting confirmation that OMB has completed its review of the Feasibility Study. She reported that the New Haven Coop had held a meeting on August 11 and announced its upcoming equipment deployment drill. She went on to report that she had attended the EAC meeting to discuss an item on its agenda concerning the number of salt trucks call at Gateway Terminal. The concern being trucks idling while in the que. Ms. Sheiffele pointed out that there is a 3-minute limit on idling in the port and there are signs posted. However, the limit can only be enforced by DEEP inspectors, or which there are too few to cover the entire State. She was planning to speak to Gateway about the problem.

*Commissioner Abbagnaro joined the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Status Report of Search for Executive Director

Ms. Sheiffele reported that the job was posted on the NHPA website on August 30, 2021. She had also sent it to the Connecticut Port Authority, North Atlantic Ports Association, Connecticut Maritime Coalition and New haven Works. Applications are due by September 17, 2021. Commissioner Desfosses stated that Commissioner Ortiz had withdrawn from the search committee and that he and Commissioner Mascola would be reviewing the applications. Attorney Kone suggested that they have a third person serve on the committee to avoid a tie. Commissioner Drax volunteered to serve on the committee. Commissioner Drax also noted that she has a suggestion for a new board member to take her seat and that she would be passing on the information to Ms. Sheiffele.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Sheiffele suggested that Item 6 be moved out of Executive Session into New Business

6. To discuss strategy and negotiations regarding DOT Parcels and Parcel 3

Roll call vote was taken to approve Item 6 be taken up under New Business; Commissioners Wraithwall, Abbagnaro, Ortiz, Desfosses, Drax, and Zinn all voted yea, to consider Item 6 as new business.

Ms. Sheiffele reported to the board that she had been invited to a meeting called by Alexandra Daum, the Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Dept. of Economic & Community Development, who also serves on the Connecticut Port Authority Board. This meeting was the result of discussions John Henshaw had with Ms. Daum regarding the transfer of State properties within the port district to the New Haven Port Authority. It was held virtually on August 25 and the attendees, in addition to Commissioner Daum and me, included Representative Paolillo, Michael Piscatelli, Director of Economic Development for the City, John Henshaw, CPA, and several staff members from DOT ROW and Engineering. It soon became clear that DOT had a broader agenda which was to include Parcel 3 in this discussion. I informed the group that there had been a meeting with DOT, NHPA staff, board chair and its counsel only weeks prior where we had all agreed to a path forward. That meeting was concluded with the DOT being charged with reviewing with its counsel if what we had just agreed to would require legislative action. Now at this August 25 meeting DOT wanted to make Parcel 3 part of the deal. DOT concluded by saying they would be submitting a proposal to NHPA representing a "Wholistic" settlement of these land issues. I put this item in Executive Session thinking we would have received that proposal by now.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Abbagnaro, seconded by Commissioner Drax the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM.