

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS

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PALMER SPARKMAN
STEVEN SPIVEY
ROBERT VILTER
HUGH BALLOCH

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:
MARY FLYNN, PARKS & REC COMM.
TOM BELL, HARBOR MASTER,
CAP. GARY PAVIA, POLICE



TOWN OF DARIEN Minutes of March 4, 2015 Meeting

The meeting, in Room 119, Town Hall, was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairman Huffard.

Present were Chairman Huffard, Vice Chairman Cavers, and Commissioners Jewett, Sparkman, and Balloch.

Absent were Vice Chairman Shellfish Spivey and Commissioners Schoudel, Kemp, Monroe, and Vilter.

Also present was Harbor Master Bell, David Dever, and Police Officer Dan Ehret.

The minutes of the February 4, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved.

David Knauf, Director of Health of the Darien Health Department, provided the Commission an overview of coastal water quality and sources in Darien. His department frequently tests the water quality for bacterial contamination. Water quality is generally good except after more than "one inch" of rain, in which case bacterial levels are elevated for approximately two tide cycles and the beaches are closed. The review and possible replacement of septic systems during the building permit process for construction and renovation has improved water quality. His department recently received a grant from the CT DEEP to conduct DNA testing of the sources of bacteria in Darien waters to determine if the bacterial are human source or animal source. Start-up is delayed due to the need for a new testing lab, but testing is still expected to be undertaken this year.

Chairman's Report

- Chairman Huffard and Vice Chairman Cavers met with Town Manager Karl Kilduff to learn about the town budgeting process and timing to submit requests for buoys, dredging and other coastal expenses. For the 2017 fiscal year [I THINK THIS WOULD BE FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2016 TO JUNE 2017 – THE BUDGET FOR 2015-2016 IS ALREADY MOSTLY DONE. Right.], the plan is for the Commission work with the Harbor Master to submit a budget in September 2015 to the town for all buoys and to hire a private contractor to service the buoys. Funding and maintenance prior to that timeframe will be done by the current arrangements - the police will service the "no wake" speeding buoys, the harbor master will maintain the "mid channel" buoys, and the "rock hazard buoys" will be funded by the local boat and yacht clubs and Darien Power Squadron. The police department's budget is \$1,000 for buoys and mooring tackle.

Harbor Master's Report

The Harbor Master reported that three new "no wake" buoys and two "rock hazard" buoys have been ordered, and that he will work with the Darien Police Department to get Connecticut State approval to move the existing "no wake" buoys to closer to the entrance of Darien Harbor. It was reported that the waiting list for town moorings has moved quicker than expected with thirteen slots having opened up. Also, the harbor survey will be undertaken after the harbor is free of ice.

Shellfish Chairman's Report

- None

Other Business

- Rock Hazard Task Force Update – Commissioner Schoudel will chair the task force. The plan is to prioritize a list of new locations and work with DEEP and the Coast Guard for approval.

- Discussion of the boat ramp at Pear Tree Point Beach – Following-up on Chairman Huffard's meeting with Mary Flynn of Parks & Recreation and Vice Chairman Cavers' prior work on the deficiencies of the Pear Tree Point boat launch ramp, the Commission decided to gather additional evidence as to the working suitability and actual harm imposed to the town's population of boaters by the boat ramp as a follow-up to the general anecdotal feedback that the current configuration is at too shallow an incline. Marine Officer Ehret, present at tonight's meeting, noted that the Police Department cannot launch their boat at the Pear Tree Point Beach ramp because of its shallow incline and instead need to use the ramp in Stamford. Commissioner Balloch volunteered to help Vice Chairman Cavers to further document the ramp's adverse impact. It was noted that giving the town additional feedback prior to any improvement plans being drawn up for Pear Tree Point Beach would be useful.

- David Dever reported the Darien Boat Club is beginning the permitting process to replace their underground gasoline storage tanks in 2018 after a normal 30 years of use.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 1st at 7:30pm, Room 119, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Vilter

Clerk