

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

FLIP HUFFARD, CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM CAVERS, VICE CHAIRMAN
STEVEN SPIVEY, VICE CHAIRMAN SHELLFISH
ROBERT VILTER, CLERK
HUGH BALLOCH
C. LINCOLN JEWETT
FRANK KEMP
ROBERT MONRO
JON SCHOUDEL
PALMER SPARKMAN



Green's Ledge Light

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

Minutes of May 6, 2015 Meeting

The meeting, in Room 119, Town Hall, was called to order at 7:30pm by Chairman Huffard.

Present were: Commissioners Huffard, Cavers, Balloch, Kemp, and Schoudel, Harbor Master Tom Bell and Mark Ioli from the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Absent were: Commissioners Spivey, Sparkman, Vilter, Monro and Jewett .

The minutes of the April 1, 2015 meeting were *not reviewed or approved* due to a lack of a quorum. It was decided to review and approve the minutes of the April 1, 2015 and May 6, 2015 meetings at the next meeting on June 3, 2015.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Huffard welcomed Mark Ioli from Darien Parks & Recreation to the meeting.

Chairman Huffard, as well as Commissioner Balloch, invited the Commission to an upcoming Long Island Sound Leaders event at Noroton Yacht Club at 6:30 PM on May 28th. The event is being sponsored by Save the Sound and Connecticut Fund for the Environment and will highlight the environmental efforts being undertaken by these organizations in our region.

Chairman Huffard noted that Darien resident Audrey Weil's name has been submitted to the Democratic Town Committee's Nominating Committee. Her nomination is intended to fill the open Democratic seat on the commission. Ms. Weil is a long-time advocate of marine environmental issues and currently serves on the board of the Norwalk Maritime Center.

Shellfish Chairman's Report

As Shellfish commissioner Spivey was absent, there was not a Shellfish report.

Harbor Master's Report

Harbor Master Bell reported that he had met with the Darien Marine Police and together they had scoped out new locations for the 5 MPH buoys at the entrance to the Darien Harbor. Next steps include obtaining Darien Police Department Captain Anderson's signature authorizing the change, followed by Selectman Jayme Stephens signature. The location change is only a modification to the existing permit. The CT DEEP already has been informed of the modifications. The changes will simply be filed with the DEEP, who may then choose to send personnel to the harbor to inspect the new locations.

Harbor Master Bell discussed the placement of additional 5 MPH buoys near the Darien Boat Club fuel dock and docks of the Noroton Yacht Club. He informed us that both locations were considered to be in areas that would limit boat maneuverability. As an alternative, placing speed signs on the pilings near both clubs was suggested. Harbor Master Bell will discuss this idea with the heads of both clubs and revert back to the Commission.

Harbor Master Bell and the commissioners briefly discussed the two recent Marine Police Unit emails regarding Zeigler Cove rafting, Fish Island and boating in the Sound's early-season cold waters.

Darien Sail & Power Squadron Events

Commissioner Kemp notified commissioners of the Darien Sail & Power Squadron's upcoming Boat Camp on Friday, July 31st and invited the commissioners to help out, especially if they possessed motorboats that could accommodate a group of the kids.

Commissioner Kemp also let the commissioners know of a "flare event" – demonstration of pyrotechnic signalling devices - that would be occurring as part of the town's USPS boating course on May 7, 2015. He invited commissioners to attend the event.

Rock Hazard Task Force

Commissioner Schoudel reviewed recent work done by the Rock Hazard Task force to identify submerged objects that pose a particular hazard to Darien's boaters. Commissioner Schoudel identified three key hazards on a chart and agreed to come back to the Commission with a list of the worst dozen or so hazards in Darien and to engage the commission to discuss and decide on a short list of the several hazards that are particularly deserving of being marked with buoys.

Pear Tree Point Boat Launch Ramp

Commissioners Cavers and Balloch discussed their next steps to document the Pear Tree Point boat ramp's difficulties. A general discussion ensued on the degree of difficulty the ramp imposes. Mssrs. Cavers and Ballach will present their findings to the commission as they collect them.

Dredging Survey Discussion

Vice Chairman Cavers brought up the idea of framing the recent harbor survey results in a broader dredging policy paper to file with the town selectman. The merits of such an approach were discussed. It was decided to examine the recent 10-year plan being submitted to the town to see how that language reflects the Commission's broader thoughts on surveying and periodically dredging the harbor.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2015 at 7:30 pm, Room 119, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Vilter
Clerk