

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

JOHN McDONALD, CHAIRMAN
C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN
WALTER RALEIGH, VICE CHAIR. SHELLFISH
FRANK KEMP, CLERK
WILLIAM CAVERS
FLIP HUFFARD
ROBERT MONRO
JON SHOUEL
J. PALMER SPARKMAN
ROBERT VILTNER



Green's Ledge Light

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

JANE BRANIGAN, PARK & REC COMM.
TOM BELL, HARBOR MASTER
CAPT. GARY PAVIA, POLICE DEPT

Minutes of the November 6, 2013 Meeting

Present: Chairman McDonald, Commissioners Cavers, Huffard, Kemp, Monro, Raleigh, Shoudel, Sparkman.
Absent: Vice-Chairman Jewett, Commissioner Vilter, and Harbor Master Bell.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by Chairman McDonald, who noted the recent loss of Former Commissioner Strauss. Hank Strauss served on the Commission for more than 20 years, his contribution to the Commission was significant and his passing is a loss to the whole boating community.

The minutes of the prior meeting of October 2, 2013 were reviewed, and approved as corrected.

Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald reported on the following matters:

- a draft of the 2012-2013 Annual Report has been submitted to the Selectmen (copy is attached)
- the 2014 meeting schedule has been prepared: all meetings will be held in room 119 on the first Monday of the month: February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3.
- information on the high-speed ferry has been given to the First Selectman
- the Friends of Gorham's Pond met on October 6 concerning dates for opening and closing the gates in the dam
- the Long Island Sound Study reports that the mapping of the seafloor of the sound is under way
- meetings that are coming up include CBAC (New Haven) on Dec 2, LIS Study (New York City) December 12
- Soundwaters' annual meeting will be November 19

Harbor Master Report

Harbor Master Bell did not forward a report for this month as the October report covered the important issues for the fall season.

Shellfish Report

Commissioner Raleigh presented the Shellfish Report (copy attached)

Repairs to Darien Boat Club Facility

Commissioner McDonald said the Commodore of the Boat Club had reported the following:

- expansion plans: the club is awaiting a decision by the Army Corp of Engineers, and that the report is expected soon
- restoring the clubhouse: approvals have been received and work will start soon

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2013, at 7:30pm in Room 119, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank B. Kemp, Clerk

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) 2012-2013 Annual Report to the Board of Selectmen from the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters
- 2) Shellfish Report – 11/6/2103, submitted by Vice Chairman – Shellfish, Walter Raleigh

Darien Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters

2012-2013 Annual Report

The stewardship of Darien's beautiful coastal waters and shoreline is the important responsibility of the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters and the Board of Selectmen. Our coast is our most valuable natural resource and is attractive to our current residents as well as potential Darien residents. This resource includes 16 miles of coastline, seven harbors, and moorings for over 300 boats and is home for over 1000 boats from kayaks to ocean cruising yachts. It also has natural, recreational, and commercial shellfish beds.

The Commission has 10 members and held five meetings last year as well as attending other meetings inside and outside of Darien having to do with coastal and shellfish issues. For those who like the water, Long Island Sound at Darien is a marvelous place to live.

Our major projects this year included:

- **Monitoring the cleanup and rebuilding from Hurricane "Sandy".** By spring, Darien boating was well underway on a normal basis though the damage to homes and facilities along our shores was still substantial.
- **Our main harbor channel was last dredged in 2001 to 8 ft. MLW.** Before "Sandy", a professional survey we commissioned indicated depths of 6 1/2' MLW, a loss of about 2-1/2 ft in 12 years. Since "Sandy" there is no indication of further loss and possibly an increased depth in some areas. Based on these soundings, we recommended no dredging yet.
- **We continue to review the proposed expansion of the Darien Boat Club,** which is under review by the Army Corps of Engineers. We are especially concerned about an adequate channel out from the Darien Public Launching ramp, and the environmental effects of dredging upstream in the Goodwives River.
- **We were able to repair our hazardous navigation buoy broken off Long Neck Point** with private funds from the Norton Yacht Club, the Darien Boat Club, and the Darien Sail & dredge Power Squadron.
- **Along with the First Selectman we are represented on the new "Friends of Holly Pont"** which Soundwaters has created as a Stamford/Darien imitative to repair the dam at it's entrance into the Sound, the mud flats at the north end, and create a fish ladder upstream in the Norton River.

Our shellfish activity has grown this year with the following projects:

- **We developed a limited lease permit for a shellfish company for a portion of our coastal waters south of Nash Island** working with our Harbor Master and the State Aquaculture Division.
- **Developed a Town permit and State license to commercially harvest shellfish in Scott Cove for a limited period this spring.**

- **Worked with the State and our Health Director to test the waters at the Oyster Reef on the Goodwives River**
- **We arranged to have 30 bushels of clams deposited by a commercial shell fisherman at our recreational shellfish beds off Great Island and Contentment Island.**
- **Set up a very interesting tour for Town officials at Bloom's large commercial oyster harvesting operations on shore and on board a boat offshore of Norwalk.**

We continue to be active with seats on the Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee, and the CT/ DEEP Boating Division Advisory Council, as well as monitoring several other LIS organizations.

We appreciate the support of the Board of Selectmen sand other Town officials.

Respectfully submitted,

John "Sandy" McDonald, Chairman

Shellfish Report -- 11/6/2013

Recreational :

Received test results from water samples taken from Goodwives River docks 10/1, upstream and downstream from oyster reef. Poor results from upstream dock.

Bureau of Aquaculture suggested retest which was done 10/16. Bacteriological test results excellent on retest.

Stocking of Great Island and Contentment Island recreational beds with clams completed October 21, by Pramer Oyster Co.

Commercial:

Darien Seafood applied to First Selectmen for new permit to work Scott Cove Restricted Relay area starting 11/15.

Pramer Oyster Company has confirmed its interest in continuing with the agreement it has with the Town to stock clams on Town recreational beds in return for the use of 25 acres of town ground.

Pramer Oyster Co. has also requested:

1. Town to help "firm up location of oyster ground next to The Clumps." (I replied that the dispute is between Pramer and the Bureau of Aquaculture.)
2. Permission to survey Restricted Relay area at the in Darien Harbor. (To be discussed with Harbormaster.)
3. Permission to survey Scott Cove beyond the Restricted Relay area in that cove. (Requires input from Bureau of Aquaculture)
4. Copy of town's transplant permit. (Sent copy used for current Darien Seafood permit.)