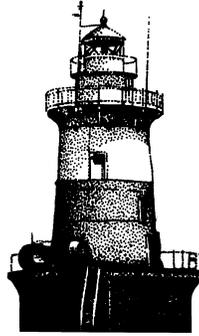


ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

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TOM BELL, HARBOR MASTER
CAPT. GARY PAVIA, POLICE DEPT.

Green's Ledge Light

Minutes of the May 2, 2012 Meeting

Present: Chairman McDonald, Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Cavers, Monroe, Kemp, Schouder, Sparkman, Vitner, Wallace, and Harbor Master Bell.

Absent: Commissioners Raleigh and Huffard.

Guests at the meeting for a discussion of the Darien Boat Club's expansion permit application, included David Dever (Commodore), John Keena (Past Commodore), and Art Morris (House and Grounds Chairman).

The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm by Chairman McDonald.

The minutes for the meeting of April 4, 2012 were reviewed and approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald reported on two proposed bills in the CT State Legislature – dealing with the effects of flooding and storm surges on coastal properties. The bills are in response to the increase in sea level and have to do with building protective sea-walls.

The North East Recreational Boating Survey, conducted by the NE Regional Boating Council, is being conducted among 60,000 boaters, randomly selected, to document their boating activities, including cruises. The survey results will aid in supporting boating improvements and projects.

There will be a presentation, as part of the SoundWaters/Stamford speaker series, on Tuesday May 22 at UConn/Stamford. The topic will be emergency preparations in local towns.

Harbor Master Report

Harbor Master Bell reported that renewals were about 85% complete, and the final notices have been sent out.

Shellfish Report

Commissioner Raleigh confirmed that getting Scotts Cove open for shellfishing remains as the goal, and that it will take an improvement in the quality of the water to achieve this goal. The Darien Health Department will be doing water testing this summer. Commissioner Raleigh and Darien Health Director David Knauf are cooperating on this effort.

Boat Launching Ramp – letter to Park & Rec.

Commissioner Cavers distributed copies of the letter to the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department dated April 6, 2012 titled: User Difficulties with the Pear Tree Point Boat Ramp. To date there has been no reply, other than the notation from the Director that the matter has been referred to the Park and Recreation Commission for their review.

Darien Boat Club – expansion permit application

Representatives of the Darien Boat Club provided a recap of the application process, dating back to a presentation made to this Commission on May 5, 2010. Recently, there has been a meeting between representatives of the Darien Boat Club, this Commission, the Harbor Mater and neighbors who would be impacted by the project.

The following points were reviewed:

- There are currently 215 boats at the docks, 200 on the waiting list, the project will add 90 to 100 slips
- Testing of soil samples have come out clean, which will allow disposal in nearby dumping grounds
- To proceed, the Board of Selectmen and RTM will need to approve changes to Club bylaws and rules
- The Club is proceeding with the application process and will keep the Commission advised of progress.

Chairman McDonald cited several concerns regarding the project, which will be reported in a response to the Army Corps of Engineers. A copy of this letter will be distributed to the Commission as soon as it is prepared.

Harbor Channel Survey

Chairman McDonald recapped the results of the harbor survey conducted by Coastline Consulting & Development, LLC, which had been reported at the Commission's April meeting. Following the April meeting he reviewed the results of the survey with the Noroton Yacht Club. The Club had commissioned a survey of the waters near their docks that was conducted at the same time. The consensus reached in these discussions was that in view of some accumulation of sediment in the channel, there was no need at the present time to push for such a maintenance project. (Recapping: over the 12 year interval, approximately 1.5' of sediment had accumulated in the channel that had been dredged to an 8' depth). It was noted that the Town's budget procedures had been completed for the year (with an RTM vote approving a 2012-2013 budget) and that there would be ample opportunity to discuss these matters with the Selectmen and Town Administrator, so as to explore the provision of future funds for the dredging operation.

Other Business

There was no other business to be considered at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6, 2012, at 7:40pm in Room 213, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank B. Kemp, Clerk