

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS

TOWN OF DARIEN

FLIP HUFFARD, CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM CAVERS, VICE CHAIRMAN
ROBERT VILTER, CLERK
HUGH BALLOCH
ERIC BARRET
DAVE DEVER
C. LINCOLN JEWETT
DAVID KAHN
FRANK KEMP
TOM LOCHTEFELD
AUDREY WEIL

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:
MARY FLYNN, PARKS & REC COMM.
TOM BELL, HARBOR MASTER
DARIEN POLICE (VACANT)



Green's Ledge Light

The meeting, held in the Town Hall, Public Meeting Room 206, was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairman Huffard.

Present were: Commissioners Huffard (Chairman), Cavers (Vice-Chairman), Vilter (Clerk), Balloch, Barret, Dever, Jewett, Kahn, Lochtefeld and Weil.

Absent were: Commissioner Kemp and Harbor Master Bell (Ex-Officio) and Mary Flynn (Ex-Officio).

The minutes of the February 3, 2016 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Update on Long Island Sound Study Meeting
 - Chairman Huffard attended a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee. The focus of the meeting was the reduction of nitrogen in Long Island Sound.
 - At the meeting, it was reported that the Governor of New York has pledged to provide funding of \$125 million Dollars to support the reduction of nitrogen from Long Island Sound and related research and development efforts.
- Noroton River Fish Passage
 - Chairman Huffard reported that Save the Sound (a bi-state program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment), in partnership with Darien Land Trust, are engaged in a joint effort to restore a fish passage to the Noroton River. The passage was eliminated 50 years ago by the construction of I-95.
 - Alewife, Blueback Herring and American Eel used to be common in Norton River, a tidal river that forms the boundary between Darien and Stamford.
 - Approximately \$400,000 has been secured from state and federal funders. A gap of between \$300,000 and \$325,000 remains to fund construction of the river passage.
- Darien Boat Club Expansion
 - Chairman Huffard noted that a meeting was to be held in a week's time by the Boat Club with its members to discuss funding of the proposed expansion and the plan going forward.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT

- Harbor Master Bell successfully shepherded passage by the Representative Town Meeting of an amendment to Article 78, Article II of the Town Code of Ordinances entitled "Boats, Harbors and

- Waterways”.
- Under the Ordinance, among other things, (i) clarity has been brought to the rights and responsibilities of the Mooring Owner for installing and maintaining mooring tackle, (ii) it is required that only the registered vessel may use the mooring and the mooring holder may not grant access to the mooring to another vessel, (iii) the Harbor Master must approve any changes to the size or type of vessel being placed on the mooring, (iv) mooring holders must occupy the mooring no later than June 15th and (v) violations of the ordinance are subject to penalties.
 - Harbor Master Bell was assisted in these efforts by Commissioner Kemp.

TASK FORCES

- Dredging
 - Vice Chairman Cavers reported on a meeting at the Fairfield Commodores Association meeting on dredging. Commissioner Devers also attended the meeting.
 - The US Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on proposed rulemaking concerning dredged material disposal sites.
 - A consequence for Darien, if the proposed rulemaking is adopted, is that dredged material disposal site most closely located to Darien would be closed, and Darien would be required to dispose of dredged material at a more distant disposal site, increasing the cost of dredging.
 - Vice Chairman Cavers agreed to investigate what would be required, going forward, to undertake levels of dredging such that it would be considered to be “maintenance” dredging activities (and not requiring governmental approvals), as opposed to “new” dredging activities (which would require obtaining new governmental approvals).
- Shellfish
 - Chairman Huffard and Vice Chairman Cavers joined the Frates on sample dredging of Scott’s Cove for the purpose of ascertaining the oyster population.
 - The sample dredging did reveal any oyster population in Scott’s Cove.
- Water Quality.
 - Commissioner Weil gave a status report on a proposal submitted by Harbor Watch for water testing in local waters.
 - Water testing would initially be conducted in Goodwives River.
 - The Commission will continue efforts identifying funding sources to pay for the water testing, including through the Town of Darien’s budget cycle.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at the Darien Library Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Vilter
Clerk