

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
[To be named], POLICE



Green's Ledge Light

Minutes of April 20, 2016 Meeting

The meeting, held in the Darien Library Auditorium, was called to order at 7:40 pm by Chairman Huffard.

Present were: Commissioners Huffard (Chairman), Vilter (Clerk), Dever, Kahn, Lochtefeld and Weil and Harbor Master Bell (Ex-Officio).

Absent were: Commissioner Cavers (Vice-Chairman), Balloch, Barret, Jewett, Kemp and Mary Flynn (Ex-Officio).

The minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Update on EPA Nitrogen Presentations
 - Chairman Huffard reported on public meetings recently held in Stamford, CT concerning the Long Island Study, Overview of Nitrogen Reduction Strategy for Long Island Sound, Presented by the EPA on February 26, 2016.
 - The Long Island Sound is one of the EPA's "Large Aquatic Ecosystem" Programs and an "Estuary of National Significance"
 - The CT DEEP and NYS DEC collaborated to assess sources of nitrogen to the Sound and to develop overall reduction targets, and to further develop a nitrogen reduction strategy
 - The Commission's concern with the negative impacts of nitrogen in Long Island Sound is consistent with work being done on the Federal and State level.
- Update on Plan of Conservation and Development
 - Chairman Huffard reported that he had received earlier in the day the Final Plan of Conservation and Development and that he would review the same more closely in the coming days. He further noted that the Commission's comments on earlier drafts of the Plan had been well received.
 - A prior draft of the Plan had suggested that the Commission assume a more formal level of responsibility in respect of coastal waters. Currently the Commission is merely an advisory body. Chairman Huffard suggested that it would be prudent for an assessment to be undertaken as to whether it would be in the best interests of the Town of Darien to have a more formal Commission.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT

- Harbor Master Bell reported that a letter concerning that certain amendment to Article 78, Article II of the Town Code of Ordinances entitled “Boats, Harbors and Waterways” would be sent to mooring owners. As reported in the last meeting of the Committee, 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 reported that he would be assisted by a Darien Eagle Scout candidate in undertaking a survey of mooring registrations and matching them up with permits. Ninety-six individuals are currently on the wait-list for a mooring slip.
- In respect of speed limits, Harbor Master Bell reported that he recently approached the Darien Boat Club about installing a speed limit sign in an appropriate location, and that he will approach the Noroton Yacht Club in the near future as well. Lastly, Harbor Master Bell reported that he will discuss the matter of enforcing speed limits in coastal waters with the Darien Police Department.
- Lastly, Harbor Master Bell reported that the mid-channel buoy markers will soon be replaced by new markers.

SHELLFISH

- Commissioner Kahn reported that he recently attended a meeting in Westport, CT concerning shell-fishing in Westport coastal waters. Westport’s focus on shell-fishing is with private individuals as the town turned over responsibility to commercial matters concerning shell-fishing to the State. He further reported that Westport has a Memorandum of Understanding with CT DEEP Department of Aquaculture that he will review. Lastly, Commissioner Kahn may seek a meeting with CT DEEP Department of Aquaculture for a general discussing of shell-fishing in Darien coastal waters.

TASK FORCES

- Water Quality – Status of Efforts with Harbor Watch
 - Commissioner Weil reported that she is engaged in conversations with Town officials with respect to possible funding the water testing proposal presented by Harbor Watch (which has been the subject of prior meetings of the Commission).
 - Commissioner Weil also reported that Harbor Watch will be having an oyster celebration event in Norwalk this June.
- Rock Hazard – Team Update
 - No information was available to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Update on Darien Boat Club Expansion
 - The voting members approved the expansion plans by a vote of 103 to 11. The proposed expansion may cost up to approximately \$525,000.
 - The Darien Boat Club is presenting its plan for expansion to CT DEEP in the course of a pre-approval phase.
- Update on Darien Boat Club Tank Replacement
 - Commissioner Dever reported that Darien Parks & Recreation has approved the plans for replacing the gas tank, and that the next step is to seek approval from CT DEEP. The Darien Boat Club has received bids from contractors to perform the services necessary to replace the tank. The voting members of the Boat Club have approved the plans for replacing the tank,

the cost of which is approximately \$276,000.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at Town Hall in Room 213.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Vilter
Clerk