Minutes of Meeting – Monday, May 21, 2018

Meeting called to order at 19:30 by Chairman Huffard

Present: Flip Huffard, William Cavers, Dave Dever, David Kahn, Tom Lochtefeld, Harbormaster Tom Bell, Prospective Commissioner Grant Tankoos

Absent: Eric Barret, Frank Kemp, Robert Vilter, Audrey Weil

Guest Speaker

Tim Pettee of the Greens Ledge Light Preservation Society gave a presentation on efforts to raise money for the restoration of this historic navigational aid. Fundraising efforts have exceeded expectations and restorations efforts are expected to commence late this year.

Chairman’s Report:

Chairman Huffard gave an update on the Noroton River fishway. Construction has been completed and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held approximately two weeks ago. Alewives have been stocked in Olson Pond which should spawn this spring. The baby fish (along with the parents) migrate down the Noroton River to salt water, where they spend the next three years before reaching reproductive maturity and returning to spawn. The fishway will allow the alewives to swim upstream and lay eggs in the river for the first time in 50 years.

Harbor Master’s Report

Harbor Master Tom Bell reported that he recently attended a training session for Harbor Masters which he found to be useful. New “No Wake” buoys will be placed in Darien Harbor, Ziegler’s Cove and the Fish Islands area. Identification stickers are recommended for kayaks and paddle boards owned by local residents. These watercrafts often float away and the owners cannot be identified. Further, when found, the question of a missing operator can arise. The possibility of moorings in
Noroton Bay continues to be explored.

Shellfish Report:

Shellfish Commissioner David Kahn reported that the permit issued to Roger Frates to harvest clams in Scott Cove was extended two times. Roger will owe the Town of Darien 10% of clams harvested for use on the recreational shellfish beds. These clams will be harvested from non-restricted relay beds at a later date. Discussions with Tim Pramer regarding the L-274 lease are ongoing. Tim would like to provide the 50 bushels of clams owed to the town annually sometime this spring or summer rather than in the Fall. The lease for the Darien co-management bed which is the source of these clams will expire on October 1, 2018. We will need to discuss renewal with Tim Pramer or other parties. Tim Pramer would like to renew the lease.

Chairman Flip Huffard requested that the shelfishing maps note that there are no viable shellfish populations for recreational harvest in the area designated for recreational shellfishing on Long Neck Point.

Task Forces

Water Quality

Vice Chairman William Cavers noted that the first two samplings for the unified Unified Water Study have been undertaken.

Chairman Huffard noted that testing within the river systems of Darien has been successful in tracking down the source of intermittent sewage leaks into Goodwives River but the relatively small scale of this leak means that it is not likely to be the source of excess nitrogen in our coastal waters and suggested we consider next steps in tracking down the source of the nitrogen.

Potential New Projects

The following projects were put forth for the Commission to consider as new Task Forces for the 2018 season:

Darien Coastal Video – Vice Chairman William Cavers noted that that no commissioner had stepped forward with respect to this project.

Liaison with Darien Parks & Recreation on the Pear Tree Point Refurbishment Project – Commissioner Tom Lochtefeld expressed that there has been some disappointment with the partnership between the Darien Boat Club and the Parks and Recreation Commission. This includes: (i) Park and Rec’s unwillingness to move the shellfishing sign near the club entrance which the Boat Club deems to be a safety hazard to its members due to the sign’s sharp edges, (ii) placement of new kayak racks in close proximity to the buried gasoline tanks operated by the Club which will result in kayakers using the platform as a staging platform for their kayaks while potentially impeding gas deliveries, and (iii) the reluctance at this time to paint extra parking lines in the parking lot to accommodate the additional parking demand at the north side of the lot as a result of the new Town kayak racks, instead calling for further analysis of the parking configuration. No representative of Parks and Recreation was in attendance to provide a response.

Other Business:
None.

Adjournment:
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 20:30 PM.

Sincerely,

David Kahn

Acting Clerk