Minutes of Meeting - Monday, February 25, 2019
Town Hall, Room 119

Call to Order at 19:30 By Chairman Cavers.

Present: Commissioners Cavers, Shuhy, Barret, Dever, Huffard, Kahn, Lochtefeld and Tankoos

Absent: Frank Kemp and Robert Vilter

I. Approval of Minutes of November 19th, 2018 (Approved)

II. Logistics
   a. Welcome new Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman, Lorene Bora
   b. Eric Barret Notetaker for the day, Dave Dever next
   c. New roles: Rob Shuhy, Clerk. Vice Chairman position will remain vacant until another Commissioner volunteers and is elected by the Commission.
   d. 2019 Schedule review – 8 scheduled meetings
   e. Update commissioner contact details by sending details to Rob Shuhy. The use of darienct.gov email should now be used by all commissioners. Eric Barret agreed to seek the town’s IT department to make sure all commissioners are set-up.

III. Reports
   a. Chairman’s Report
      ii. Meeting with First Selectman: Chairman Cavers and Commissioner Kahn met with First Selectman Stevenson in early December to let her know about our Shellfish work and to get her impressions on the excess nutrient issues possibly linked to fertilizer runoff from properties adjacent to water sources. The Environmental Protection Committee (Eric Joostens) was recommended as possible resource/partner.
      iii. LISS meeting – Chairman Cavers attended LISS’s December 13th meeting, summarizing discussion on National Estuarine Research Reserves, recent NYC sea barrier study events and funding, and a
presentation by UConn Professor Tom Morris on environmentally friendly lawn care practices.

iv. Blue Plan meeting at Darien Library (May 9th) with possible visit from Prof. Morris to our commission meeting April 8th.

v. No Purse-seining: NY bill to prohibit purse seining was recently passed in NY. It would prevent Menhaden/bunker over fishing in LIS, matching laws already in place in CT.

vi. CT DEEP Water Monitoring Conference (April 5th)

vii. Sea Level Rise Event (April 4th) at Darien Library

viii. Upcoming Speakers: CT Aquaculture, GreenWave, TNC on the Blue Plan have all been secured for speaking to the Commission. The commissioners were also interested in hearing from Professor Tom Morris of UConn on environmentally friendly lawn care if he is available.

b. Harbor Master’s Report:
Harbor Master Bell mentioned that 60-70 mooring renewal applications are still pending. Deadline is March 15th.

c. Shellfish Report
   i. Shellfish Commissioner Kahn met with Frate Sr/Jr and David Carey, CT Aquaculture on February 8th. Mr Frate was allowed to harvest clams in Scott’s Cove during 2017 and 2018. Agreement was reached to allow him back into Scott Cove this winter season, but then give the beds a two-year rest, as well as only allow harvesting for a total of 25 days per year.
   iii. David Kahn Attended Gathering of Shellfish Commissions in New Haven January 8th

IV. Task Forces
   a. Water Quality
      i. UWS End of Season Report and 2018 STS Report was given to Selectmen on January 8th. With a third harbor added this season, additional volunteers are being sought.
      ii. Non-Point Sources: Chairman Cavers and Commissioners Huffard and Shuhy discussed the possible benefits of a CT DEEP-enabled “Watershed Based Plan” for undertaking Non-Point Source pollution mitigation in Darien. The possibility of receiving funding from Section 319 grants was pointed out. Such grants could fund the effort to apply for WBP designation, as well as fund mitigation measures implemented under a plan. Cavers, Huffard and Shuhy will continue to assess WBP’s and other productive NPS strategies.

V. Other Business-
   a. Dock applications: Very few new dock applications. HM Bell to share any new ones as they come. The usefulness of the Commission’s role in reviewing these was discussed.
   b. Website: updates need to be added, with current members and contact info. Charter and other useful information to be added. E Barret with handle with town IT dept.

VI. Adjournment: 21:00 by Chairman Cavers.