Minutes of Meeting – Monday, October 21st 2019
Town Hall, Room 119

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM by Chairman Cavers

Present: William Cavers, Flip Huffard, Tom Lochtefeld, Rob Shuhy, Robert Vilter, Eric Barrett, David Kahn, Harbor Master Tom Bell, & Officer Derek Mulcahy

Absent: Frank Kemp, Dave Dever, Grant Tankoos, Lorene Bora

Guest Presentations
Summary Recap of Darien Marine Police for 2019 Season – Officers Derek Mulcahy and Jimmy Martin

- It was a quiet season with the following publicity highlights
  - Monitoring of Fireworks for Westport, Norwalk, Darien & Stamford
  - Flotilla Event
  - Kids Boat Camp
- The team participated in Coast Guard Regional Training. This is a regional exercise to train for search and rescue emergencies.
- Discussed that if someone gets separated from their boat or kayak, its important to get in touch with department via 911 and let them know they are safe.
- Described a few rescue missions for capsized kayakers.
- Noted that there needs to be additional education on PFD and identification requirements for kayaks and Paddle Boards.
- Derek has been promoted, but will still keep a hand in the scheduling the boat crews while taking periodic assignments. Other officers staffing the boat will be Jimmy Martin Chris Immez, & Lou Gannon.
  - [Officer Jimmy Martin will take over from Derek Mulcahy as Ex-Officio Member.]

The Commission thanked them for their service.
Chairman’s Report

- Discussed Long Island Sound Beach Report. Good news for Darien except on dry weather reading at Weed Beach where bacteria read high. Health Director David Knaup raised a possible discrepancy with disputed readings.
- Distributed report with violation tagged in yellow.
- Went to presentation at Earth Place where Senator Chris Murphy talked about Save our Seas act 2.0 which benefits the Sound by cleaning debris. He is trying to get resources.
- Weeks Barge Controversy. Weeks Barge wants to put in moorings for a staging area to Stamford Harbor. Debated whether we should opine, but in the end decided it was in Greenwich waters so wasn’t in our purview. The Chairman recommended we stay informed on the issue.
- Chairman Cavers asked Commission members to send an email if they want to re-up for 2020.

Harbor Master’s Report
Harbor Master Bell discussed a sail boat that broke free from its mooring in a recent storm. He indicated that the post on the mushroom actually broke its weld (never seen before). G&C Marine came in to salvage the boat and there was no fuel spill, environmental issues or other boats damaged. He reiterated that the Town rules require a 3yr inspection of Mooring tackle and now also requires DorMor type moorings for new placements.

Shellfish Report
Chairman Kahn gave the Shellfish Commissioner's report, noting:
- New agreement with CT Aquaculture which has new protocol to allow us to accept 50 bushels from Frate in a safe and clear manner which involves tracking. They will run this protocol by the First Selectman to see if it’s acceptable.
- A conversation ensued on when the clams were placed and how clams get themselves down into the sand (generally pumping more in warmer water)

Other Business
- Chairman Cavers discussed his new idea of Standing Committees with people perhaps rotating in and out of. The commissioners were in agreement on the establishment of the committees.
  - New committees would be formed to focus on the following areas
    - Harbor and Coastal Safety
    - Harbor Operations
    - Water Quality
    - Aquaculture
  - The idea is to have the members on each committee keep an eye out during the month for news on their committee and to introduce and discuss content to the meeting each month.
- Asked for each commissioner to sign up for a standing committee. **All commissioners (except for Commissioner Dever who was absent) volunteered at the meeting or by email prior to the meeting for a specific standing committee.**

- Suggested **becoming more public** public relation efforts for each committee and perhaps getting articles into the news.

- Discussed some specific items of interest for each committee such as rock buoys and cleanup efforts with ways to fund cleanup efforts with Corporate Sponsors or Foundations.

**Adjournment**

Chairman Cavers adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:46 PM.