Minutes of Meeting - Monday, November 18, 2019
Town Hall, Room 119

I. Call to Order

II. Guest Presentation- Jack Butcher, Noroton Fire Department, Marine Division

- Jack visited to cover updates on the Noroton Fire Department Marine Division including the search and rescue (SAR group) he is now commanding.
- Delivered overview of current boat and its limitations including age and outdated technology.
- Gave details of proposed boat, 38’ with outboards, great speed and year-round capabilities. Shared that getting to the scene faster is half the battle in saving lives and assisting police marine division and Coast Guard.
- Jack also gave overview on training for SAR and an overall discription of coverage calls and support for marine division on land using their “Sea Legs” boat in flooding situation.
- Sea Legs and the new boat will be purchased mainly through donations and some state funding/anticipated grants.

III. Chairman’s Report

- All commissioners re -upped for 2020 year.
- Town of Darien Sustainable CT Award
  1. Commission’s Unified Water Study work recently helped town achieve a “Bronze Level” for Sustainability.
- $2.6 MM LIS Futures Fund awards
  1. A handout was given to outline 2.6 million dollars in 35 separate Futures Fund grants. The grants addressed water quality, litter prevention, storm water management studies, fish passages, Alewife regeneration and oyster planting.
  2. Chairman Cavers noted that these 35 grants and the Long Island Sound Study’s vastly increased budget indicate a healthy funding environment for water quality projects.
IV. Harbor Master’s Report

- The harbor was empty for the winter. The boat club was empty as well but for one boat. (leaving that weekend)
- Conversation on mooring safety and winter sticks. Winter stick service is up to the owner to contract out or do himself.
- Safety standard was revised several years ago and seem adequate if followed.
- HM Bell discussed adding a rock hazards buoy off Zeigler cove in the spring of 2020 where the depth is not correctly marked on the chart and several “larger boats” have stuck ground.

V. Harbor and Coastal Safety:

- Discussion on sign at kayak rack for safe PWC tips and practices.
- Talk of Eagle scouts helping with these signs and related expanded project
- It was noted that Pam Geary should be lopped in on any projects and potential signs.

VI. Water Quality

- Fuss and O’Neill agreed to write a 319-grant application for water quality focusing on the Noroton River.

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Cavers at approximately 9:10PM