Minutes of Meeting – Monday, June 15, 2020
Held by Zoom Video-conference

Meeting called to order at 7:46 PM by Chairman Cavers

Present: William Cavers, Flip Huffard, Tom Lochtefeld, David Kahn, Dave Dever, Bill Wright, Grant Tankoos, Frank Kemp, Lorene Bora, Tom Bell, Sgt. Derek Mulcahy, Lucia Zackowski (Friends of Gorham pond).

Absent: Robert Vilter, Rob Shuhy, Eric Barrett

Guest Presentations

Friends of Gorham’s Pond – Lucia Zackowski. Lucia spoke on the subject of dredging Gorham’s Pond. Lucia pointed out that the pond which (years ago) had some depth is currently only inches deep and nearby residents are dismayed at the islands that are appearing in the pond. Lucia pointed out that dredging of the pond (if approved etc) could cost $26mm and that fundraising for such a project is not identified and is uncertain. Friends of Gorham’s Pond feel that the pond fills with silt from Route 95, retains sediment that otherwise would fill Noroton Bay’s navigable channels, and that the costs of retaining or dredging all this sediment should not be theirs alone to bear. State of Connecticut and town support for dredging solutions is unknown and/or problematic.

Good news to report was that the last “annual clean up” of pond had a lot less debris and only took 3 hours as compared to years ago when it took a minimum of a day plus.

Darien Police Report

Derek Mulcahy spoke of the DPD spending more time on the water this season. He noted that they are breaking up more boats rafting (more than 3 together) but have not been enforcing social distancing on these boats. They have also been trying to warn paddle boarders and kayaks about PFDs.

No serious incidents to report in Darien waters.

A note was raised on an “abandoned boat” at the entrance to the launch ramp. Commission was informed that this was due to a trailer disintegrating underneath it and
Chairman’s Report
Chairman Cavers inquired about the status of club opening efforts at Noroton Yacht Club Darien Boat Club and the Darien Park Beaches.

Commissioner Lochtefeld reported that Darien Boat Club is open for boats and gas. No tables or chairs yet. Club will abide by Town of Darien Guidance. Members are asked to wear face masks, but there has been some reluctance and resistance to do so.

Commissioner Huffard gave an update on the early procedures identified by Noroton Yacht Club. They are open (but only one entrance where temperature is taken), as are their eating places with masks required and social distancing. Launches were modified to add extra hand holds to make embarking easier and distanced from the launch operator.

The commission’s role in reviewing dock permit applications was discussed. Additional research into the topic, including consulting with the town’s attorney, will be undertaken.

Lori Bora indicated that the new park rule of “Carry-in and Carry-out” regarding trash is not working as well as hoped, and that trash bins have now being placed on the beaches. The Carry-in and Carry-out policy is still in force.

Harbormaster’s Report
Harbormaster Bell indicated 60 new calls for Moorings which is very high. He was asked by Commissioner Huffard about making more spaces available as scoped out by Jeff Eng. He and Jeff will talk and he will be checking that the correct users are actually on their moorings.

Other Business
Buoys for Oyster farm of Stamford. It was noted that the buoys were hard to see because of marine growth. Harbor Master Bell was asked to co-ordinate with his counterpart in Stamford to see if anything can be done to make these more visible.

Adjournment
Chairman Cavers adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:25 PM.