

# ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

JOHN McDONALD, CHAIRMAN  
C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN  
WALTER RALEIGH, SHELLFISH  
FRANK KEMP, CLERK  
WILLIAM CAVERS  
ROBERT MONRO  
JON SCHOUDEL  
PALMER SPARKMAN  
HENRY STRAUSS  
MICHAEL WALLACE



GREEN'S LEDGE LIGHT

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

JANE BRANIGAN, PARK & REC. COMMISSION.  
ROBERT PRICE, HARBOR MASTER  
CAPT. GARY PAVIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Minutes of February 3, 2010 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm in Room 213 by Chairman McDonald.

Present were Chairman McDonald, Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Kemp (Clerk), Cavers, Monro, Raleigh, Schoudel, Sparkman, Wallace, and Ex-Officio Member Price (Harbormaster). Commissioner Strauss was absent.

Also attending the meeting was Jeff Eng, Dockmaster, Noroton Yacht Club.

The minutes of the December 2, 2009 Meeting were reviewed and approved.

### Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald reported on activities on behalf of the Commission since the last meeting. He:

- introduced new member, Bill Cavers, who was welcomed to service on the Commission
- distributed a notice of a Paddle Smart seminar on March 20 at the CT Fire Academy, Windsor Locks, CT. Commissioner Jewett agreed to advise the Boat Club of this activity
- described the FEMA project to update flood insurance study and mapping. A copy of the letter from FEMA to the First Selectman is attached
- described an EPA report titled "Climate Ready Estuaries" which is available on request
- provided an update on the CT Harbor Management Association meeting of January 23, with emphasis on the protection of Winter Flounder, a CT resident fish that is endangered by dredging operations
- advised of the next Long Island Sound Council meeting, on March 29 in New Haven. Commissioner Wallace expressed interest in attending this meeting as Darien's representative.
- provided an update on the DEP regulations concerning the Clean Water Act, with reference to publications from the Indian Harbor Yacht Club. It is anticipated that a draft of the environmental impact statement for Darien would include some of this language.
- Commissioner Raleigh agreed to represent Darien at the March 11 meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study in New York City.

## **Harbor Master's Report**

Harbor Master Price reported that there was negligible activity in the harbor at this time of year, and that matters were in order.

The Harbor Master announced that he would retire as of June 30, after 20 years of service. He has notified the First Selectman of this, and requested that a search for his replacement be undertaken.

The Commission congratulated him on his years of service and expressed appreciation for his dedicated efforts.

## **Shellfish Report**

Bud Raleigh reported on several issues that are under consideration at this time: the Buezzo Shellfish beds, the Scott Cove Water Quality issues, a Commercial shellfish permit from Darien Seafood (Roger Fraitte) and the definition of the Darien/Stamford Town line as shown in Department of Aquaculture records.

Commissioner Raleigh provided a copy of his notes for these discussions, which are included as attachments to these Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Raleigh, and seconded by Commissioner Kemp, that the Commission request its Chairman to contact the First Selectman in regard to the topic of the Buzzeo Shellfish leases, in the interests of filing amended documentation with the Town, or allowing the permit to fish the beds expire as of July 1. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion requesting that the Chairman of the Commission discuss this with the First Selectman.

Commissioner Kemp excused himself at 8:50 pm so that he might attend the conclusion of the Squadron's Boating Course, in progress at Middlesex Middle School.

## **“Managing Darien's Coastal Resources” – a description of the Commission's responsibilities**

Commissioner Jewett asked for updates to the draft document which he had circulated, and provided an updated February 3 draft for the Commissioners' review. Several suggested changes were submitted at the meeting. Commissioner Jewett will develop a new draft. When finally approved, this will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for their comments and approval.

## **Mooring Specifications Report and Discussion**

There was a wide ranging discussion of mooring specifications, ours as well as those in use by other towns and yacht clubs. Jeff Eng described his many years of experience as the Dockmaster for the Darien Harbor and Noroton Bay. His conclusions were that our current specifications are working well for our harbors. The few recent failures were all pennants, probably the result of old nylon line ('09) and a cuts ('08). Other harbors use chain pennants for larger and more exposed yachts, but allow line pennants for smaller and more protected boats. Each material has advantages and disadvantages. Bridle material was also discussed. Some harbors are using Dynanin line for bridles made up of different materials, offering a 1% stretch. Darien specifies 3-strand Dacron line. The Chairman asked that a more detailed analysis of other harbors' practices be presented at the next meeting, so that the commission could decide on what if any changes are warranted for Darien harbor. Commissioner Monro will continue to develop this analysis and lead the discussion.

**Other Business**

There was no new business or announcements.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday March 3 in room 213, Town Hall, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, with thanks to Commissioner Raleigh for providing assistance with notes concerning the second half of the meeting.

Frank B. Kemp  
Clerk

**ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES:**

- Letter, dated January 19,2010 to First Selectman David Campbell from Michael J. Goetz, Chief, Risk Analysis Branch, FEMA Region I
- Report from Commissioner Raleigh regarding Shellfish topics – 02/03/10



U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
99 High Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

**FEMA**

January 19, 2010

David Campbell  
First Selectman  
Town of Darien  
Town Hall  
2 Renshaw Road, Room 202  
Darien, Connecticut 06820

Reference: Updated Coastal Flood Insurance Study and Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Fairfield County, Connecticut (All Jurisdictions).

Dear Mr. Campbell:

In a few months, your community will be receiving updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) through the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Modernization initiative. Now, through a second wave of flood map improvements under the new Risk Map Analysis and Planning Program (Risk MAP) Program, FEMA will be updating certain scientific data along the Connecticut coastline. This Risk MAP restudy will, over the next two years, result in more accurate technical data being further incorporated into communities coastal DFIRMS.

STARR is currently serving FEMA as a Production and Technical Services contractor under the Risk MAP Program. In support of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), STARR is initiating the coastal flood hazard analysis in Fairfield County. The Town of Darien is one of the communities in which new coastal flood hazard analysis and mapping will occur. The end product of this activity will be an updated Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and DFIRM for the coastal communities of Fairfield County in Connecticut. The current tasks will include: field survey and reconnaissance activities, review of the coastal hydrology, and updates to the hydraulic analysis for the shoreline of the Town of Darien. This data will then be utilized to produce an updated FIS and DFIRM panels for coastal panels in Fairfield County.

The field survey and reconnaissance activities will include a visual inspection of the shoreline to identify changes in physical conditions from the previous FIS, determine the condition of shore protection structures and natural barriers, and evaluate potential locations for transects used in our hydraulic analysis. The reconnaissance study will be completed on foot for coastal beaches and by boat for inner-harbor areas and in-accessible coastal areas. Two-person teams of STARR staff will be using hand-held Global Positioning Systems and digital cameras to document our findings. STARR plans to initiate the field activities during the week of January 25, 2010. It is anticipated that the field activities will be ongoing throughout the months of January, February, and March.

Additionally, we are requesting your assistance to identify the coastal mapping needs for your community. This information will allow STARR to efficiently perform hydrologic and

hydraulic analysis for the Town of Darien. Specifically, we are interested in the following information:

- Post-event surveys and investigations for major storms that have impacted your community
- Documented areas of repetitive coastal flooding
- Areas of significant beach or dune erosion
- Areas of recent residential development or identified future development or areas of rezoning
- Location, extent, condition, and owner of coastal protection structures (i.e. revetments, seawalls, etc.) or any other public or private project which may have impacted the floodplain
- Any and all available topographic data for the Town of Darien
- Areas with identified damage during storm events
- Areas where the existing DFIRM is inaccurate

Any of the above referenced information should be sent to the STARR Task Order Manager:  
Amol Daxikar  
One Cambridge Place  
50 Hampshire Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

He can be reached at (617) 452-6386.

STARR will coordinate regional scoping meetings with you and other officials from your community, as well as those from other coastal communities in your county, to discuss this task and the requested information in greater detail. Staff from STARR will be contacting you in the immediate future to coordinate and answer any questions.

We look forward to working with the community officials of the Town of Darien to ensure that the goals of this Risk MAP project are met. We believe that this project is an important step to allow the Town of Darien to continue to administer effective floodplain management programs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact David Mendelsohn of my staff. David can be reached at david.mendelsohn@dhs.gov or by telephone at (617) 832-4713. You may also contact Carla Feroni at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection at carla.feroni@ct.gov or by telephone at (860) 424-3390.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. Goetz  
Chief, Risk Analysis Branch  
FEMA Region I

cc: Charles A. Saverine, Building Official, Town of Darien  
Jeremy Ginsberg, Planning & Zoning Director, Town of Darien  
Robert Woodside, Code Compliance Officer, Town of Darien  
Peter Hillman, Chairperson, Environmental Protection Commission, Town of Darien  
John McDonald, Chairperson, Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters, Town of Darien

## Shellfish Report -- 2/3/10

### Buzzeo Shellfish Beds

- CT Department of Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture (DA/BA) informed Mr. Joseph Buzzeo of the newly approved location and size of his two beds just off the west shore of Noroton Bay
- Mr. Buzzeo has yet to replace earlier faulty documentation of his claim with Darien Town Clerk
- DA/BA director suggested two approaches: 1) Darien Shellfish Commission (BOS) could substitute documentation with the town clerk's office, or 2) DA/BA could revoke the permit of Mr. Buzzeo's lessee, Fjord Fisheries, to fish the beds as of July 1
- Fjord's current state permit limits use to DA/BA approved area
- Next step: Determine how BOS wishes to proceed

### Scott Cove Water Quality

- David Knauf, Director, Darien Health Department, provided assurance that most properties whose septic systems might affect Scott Cove have been visited, and that he noted that there are few detectible problems with septic systems in the area
- 80% of town served by sewers, but areas south of I-95, close to the Sound, are mostly on individual septic systems
- Mr. Knauf is not optimistic that DA/BA water testing will lead to reopening Scott Cove's recreational shellfishing areas in the near future, due to poor ability of ledge in adjacent land to cleanse septic effluent
- DA/BA tests water quality in Scott Cove monthly or after a significant rain event, and test results are available to our Health Department, upon Mr. Knauf's request.
- Next step: Ask DA/BA whether shellfish meat testing could supercede water testing to determine Scott Cove health status

## **Commercial Permit Request**

- Darien Seafood has approached First Selectman seeking permit to dredge clams in two areas in Darien waters:
  - 1) A 25-acre portion of Scott Cove which CT Bureau of Aquaculture has designated "Restricted Relay" by DA/BA,
  - 2) And a strip adjacent to the east shore of Long Neck Point which is most of what remains of Darien's recreational shellfishing area, following DA/BA's 2009 closure of Scott Cove to recreational shellfishing
- DA/BA has suggested that the requested area in Scott Cove could be made available to any and all harvesters for a period of one month each for the purpose of clearing the bed of silt
- As an alternative to the recreational area requested, a 25-acre Restricted Relay bed near Smith Reef might be offered
- Clams from Restricted Relay areas must be transplanted to cleaner water for a period of two weeks when the water temperature is at least 50° F
- Next step: Await Darien Seafood's decision on alternate area and First Selectman's decision on permit process, as required

## **Darien/Stamford Town Line**

- DA/BA maps of Darien and Stamford shellfish beds include a town line that differs from current U.S. government maps
- DA/BA's version employs a town line used by a 1980 map prepared to show beds owned by Tallmadge Brothers
- DA/BA agrees that the town line on their maps is incorrect
- Darien P&Z is not concerned with exact location of boundary in coastal waters, but did produce map indicating boundary recognized by U.S. federal authorities
- Next step: Aquaculture to determine how to change their maps