

# ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

JOHN McDONALD, CHAIRMAN  
C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN  
WALTER RALEIGH, SHELLFISH  
FRANK KEMP, CLERK  
ROBERT MONRO  
JON SCHOUDEL  
COLIN SEELY  
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 December 2, 2009 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm in Room 213 by Chairman McDonald.

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

The minutes of the November 4, 2009 Meeting were reviewed and approved.

### Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald reported that Town Counsel Fox had responded to his inquiry concerning the voting status of Harbormaster Price. The Commission then voted (9-0 in favor) to request that the Chairman pursue the topic with the Selectmen, in an effort to restore Harbormaster Price to the status of voting member.

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

- distributed a letter from Governor Rell to Senator Lieberman setting out the importance of funding EPA efforts at keeping the dredging disposal sites open, in that they are important to the economic strength of cities and towns in the State (attached)
- distributed a memo from Donna Rajczewski, Town Clerk, to Chairs of all Boards, Commissions and Committees, dated 11/10/09, concerning the conduct and reporting of meetings
- encouraged Members to attend the monthly Long Island Sound Councils Meeting in New Haven. It was agreed that attendance and reporting on this meeting would be rotated among Commissioners. Commissioners Kemp and Wallace will share the first meeting assignment.
- noted that pictures of water scenes and boats were needed for the Town Annual Report. Harbormaster Price indicated that he had many such pictures and would get them to the Chairman.

### Harbor Master's Report

The Harbor Master reported that with the exception of one boat at Pratt Island and one in the river, the harbor was now clear for the winter. These two remaining boats are about to be moved for the winter.

## **Shellfish Report**

Bud Raleigh reported that the matter of the Buzzeo claims was just about wrapped up, with the Bureau of Aquaculture about to file a report that includes the minor corrections that had been discussed.

As for Scott Cove, the Director of Health, David A. Knauf will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Commission, on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, concerning water quality issues and the issue of hook-ups to the sewer line in Salem Straits.

New water quality sampling points have been established in the vicinity of Scott Cove. Commissioner Raleigh will make inquiries as to their results and the implications for re-opening Scott Cove for shellfishing.

On January 9, 2010 there will be the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of State Shellfish Commissions at the Sound School, New Haven. Commissioners Seely and Wallace may join Commissioner Raleigh at this meeting.

## **Other Business**

Commissioner Jewett distributed latest draft of "Managing Darien's Coastal Resources," noting the sections that had been updated since the last meeting. Commissioners contributed suggestions to the next draft of the document, and will forward other materials to Commissioner Jewett. This document will be reviewed at the next meeting, with the goal of submitting it to the Selectmen by April of 2010.

Commissioners Strauss and Sparkman reported on the review of harbor mooring standards as suggested at the last meeting. They will continue their efforts, joined by Commissioner Wallace and Commissioner Monroe, who will Chair the effort, so as to allow the preparation of revised standards as deemed necessary. Chairman McDonald will invite Jeff Eng, Manager of the Noroton Yacht Club, to attend the next meeting and address these issues.

Commissioner Kemp announced the start of the next Safe Boating Course, presented by the Darien Sail & Power Squadron on Wednesday January 13, 2010, and encouraged the Commissioners to spread the word within the boating community. He also mentioned the pending change of regulations which would allow internet, on-line, courses to qualify for the State's Safe Boating Certificate, and will keep the Commission advised of these matters.

Copies of the May 1997 Environmental Policy for Darien Coastal Waters statement were distributed, and the Commission was asked to suggest changes and updates at the next meeting, including a statement on boat bottom pressure-washing.

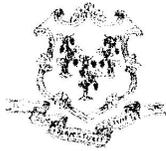
## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 in room 213, Town Hall, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank B. Kemp  
Clerk



**M. Jodi Rell**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

November 17, 2009

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lieberman:

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the Connecticut Congressional delegation for your successful efforts to ensure that funding for the development of the Long Island Sound Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) was included in the FY10 budget bills passed in both chambers and signed by the President.

This marks the third consecutive year that this important project has benefited from your support and vigilance. Thanks to your efforts, the Corps now has \$6.89 million of the \$12 million it needs to complete the DMMP. As you know, with the 2013 deadline for DMMP completion looming less than four years away, we must all maintain our vigilance to ensure the Corps receives the remaining \$5 million it needs over the next three fiscal years to meet the 2013 completion date.

I must also ask for your support in securing prompt funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to undertake a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the designation of dredged sediment disposal sites in eastern Long Island Sound. By way of background, the two existing eastern Long Island Sound disposal sites have not been designated by EPA and are available for properly managed disposal only on an interim basis. Without completion of the SEIS and site designation by EPA, a critical disposal site near New London will cease to be available in September 2011 for all federal and some important non-federal dredging projects. The other interim eastern LIS disposal site will cease to be available in September 2013, absent EPA action. EPA has agreed to undertake the SEIS process concurrently with the development of the DMMP, as soon as the necessary funding is available.

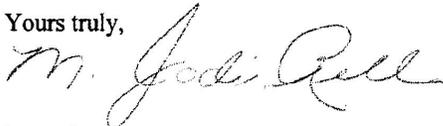
Even the interim status of the two eastern disposal sites has been questioned through a recent New York action. On November 2, 2009, the New York Department of State (NYDOS) objected to the use of the New London site by the United States Navy for a vital maintenance dredging project at the New London submarine base. NYDOS denial of federal consistency was based partially on their assertion that the New London disposal site is not properly designated. Their decision creates a new impediment and added cost to upgrading and maintaining the waterfront facilities of this strategic military installation. In addition, the loss of these disposal sites would severely increase the costs faced by coastal communities and Connecticut Maritime dependent

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businesses in southeast Connecticut, such as Dow Chemical, due to increased transportation costs for dredge material to more distant disposal sites.

I cannot emphasize enough that failure to promptly and adequately fund both the DMMP and SEIS endeavors will result in serious environmental and economic consequences for Connecticut's coastal communities, ports and maritime dependent businesses. Your continued efforts to secure funding for these projects would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please contact Amey Marrella, my Commissioner of Environmental Protection, at (860) 424-3001. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Jodi Rell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

M. Jodi Rell  
Governor

MJR/gw

cc: Commissioner Amey Marrella