

**Five Mile River Commission Minutes
February 9, 2012**

Commission members in attendance:

Matthew Marion, Chairman
John deRegt
William Jessup
Dirk Leasure
Ray Meurer, Harbor Superintendent
David Snyder, Assistant Harbor Superintendent

Guests:

Art van Sciver, owner, The Bait Shop
Gary Arcamone, owner, All Seasons Marine Works
Mary Ilchert, owner, Five Mile River Works

Matthew Marion took the chair at 7:38 p.m. He welcomed the guests and invited them to share their mutual interests and concerns about activities on Five Mile River.

A general discussion on the following topics ensued: the failed experiment to grow spartina grass near the western shore in the area commonly called "the mud flats", the violation of the "No Wake Zone", the pollution of the river caused in part by non-point source run-off from the roads, the State requirement to collect waste water from the spray washing of boat bottoms, the planned dredging of the boat slip area at one marina, storm damage caused by Hurricane Irene, the future dredging of the federal channel, the increased shallowness of the main boat channel at the northern end of the river beginning in the area of Barclay's Landing, the need to start planning for future dredging of the federal channel, the continuing support of boatyard and marina operators in identifying boat owners who do not pay the harbor use fee and the abundance of kayaks/paddle boards in the river and the need to educate people to keep out of the main boat channel.

Chairman Marion noted that in response to the growing popularity of kayaks and paddle boards, the commission established a kayak/paddle board "trail" last year. The trail uses large yellow buoys placed between the western string of the fore-and-aft moorings and the western shore. The buoys provide a path outside the federal channel for kayaks/paddle boards to follow as they transit the river, thus minimizing traffic in the federal channel.

In addition, signs will be installed this spring advising people to stay out of the federal channel, except when crossing from one side of the river to the other side. The signs will be placed at the three major launching areas: the "Down Under" kayak rental facility, the Community Dock and the Rowayton Beach Association boat house.

Chairman Marion thanked the Guests for their input, and they departed the meeting at 8:27 p.m..

Dirk Leasure reported meeting recently with the Town of Darien First Selectwoman to confirm Dirk's reappointment as a commissioner. Their conversation led to a general discussion of the Five Mile River Commission. Dirk was invited back to provide the entire Board of Selectman with a briefing on the Five Mile River Commission's mission and an update on its current activities. Dirk plans to provide each Board member with a copy of the minutes of the commission's last five meetings.

The harbor superintendent noted that applications for harbor use fee decals continue to come in from mooring permit holders and people who berth boats at docks. Open mooring locations are being assigned to boat owners on the wait list.

Tammy Papp, administrative assistant, financial reports showed YTD income of \$8,300 and YTD expenses of \$899.83.

The minutes of the January 11, 2012, meeting was unanimously approved.

At 8:45 p.m., Chairman Marion declared the start of an executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

The next meeting of the commission is March 8, 2012.

All meetings are held in the Boardroom of the Rowayton Community Center, 33 Highland Ave., Rowayton, CT beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Remaining 2012 scheduled meeting dates are: March 8, April 26, June 7, September 20 and November 15

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Meurer
Harbor Superintendent