

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

FLIP HUFFARD, CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM CAVERS, VICE CHAIRMAN
STEVEN SPIVEY, VICE CHAIRMAN SHELLFISH
ROBERT VILTER, CLERK
HUGH BALLOCH
C. LINCOLN JEWETT
FRANK KEMP
ROBERT MONRO
JON SCHOUDEL
PALMER SPARKMAN
AUDREY WEIL



Green's Ledge Light

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:
MARY FLYNN, PARKS & REC COMM.
TOM BELL, HARBOR MASTER,
CAP. GARY PAVIA, POLICE

Minutes of October 7, 2015 Meeting

The meeting, in Room 119, Town Hall, was called to order at 7:35pm by Chairman Huffard.

Present were: Commissioners Huffard, Cavers, Vilter, Jewett, Kemp, Sparkman and Weil.

Also present were: Jayme Stevenson, Darien First Selectman, Harbor Master Bell, Walter Raleigh, former Vice Chairman of the Commission, Shellfish, David Dever and Mark Ioli (from the Parks & Recreation Commission).

Absent were: Commissioners Spivey, Balloch, Monroe and Schoudele..

The minutes of the September 16, 2015 meeting were approved.

Chairman's Report:

Water Quality Testing Proposal from Harbor Watch

- Overview of Harbor Watch Research Plan. Chairman Huffard provided an overview of Harbor Watch's proposal to First Selectman Stevenson and the Commission. The rationale for Darien to undertake water quality testing is tied to near-term and long-term environmental, health and recreational concerns, and educational and public-awareness objectives. The Commission will create a Water Quality Task Force to address these concerns, which will work with Harbor Watch with respect to its water quality proposal, and will work with the Town of Darien (the First Selectman, David Knauf, Director of Health and David Gentile, Director of Public Works) in its consideration of the water quality testing program.
- A key objective with the water quality testing program is to structure the program in such a way that it is consistent with and complementary to the water quality work/study currently being undertaken by the Health Department. First Selectman Stevenson advised the Commission to involve Mr. Knauf and Mr. Gentile in this process, to assist in developing the testing program.
- The Commission and First Selectman Stevenson also discussed budgetary considerations for funding the testing program.
- Former Vice Chairman of the Commission for shellfishing, Walter Raleigh, spoke about the

history of shellfishing off Darien's coastal waters, and what led to the decision of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture, to close off Scott's Cove to shellfishing.

- The Commission asked for volunteers to form a Water Quality Task Force – Chairman Huffard, Audrey Weil, Frank Kemp, David Devers and Robert Vilter volunteered. The Commission will meet with Harbor Watch and with David Knauf, Director of Health on October 23rd to have an initial meeting to discuss the general parameters of the testing program.

Long Island Sound Advisory Council and Long Island Sound Assembly

- Chairman Huffard and Mr. Raleigh spoke generally about the Long Island Sound Council & Assembly, which is comprised of elected officials or their designees from Coastal Connecticut towns and cities. The council is focused on the use and preservation of Long Island Sound. First Selectman Stevenson noted that she may seek to appoint a designee to represent Darien at council meetings.

Commissioner Recruitment

- Chairman Huffard noted that three Commissioner positions will soon become available and that the Commission is actively seeking potential candidates to fill these positions.

Harbor Master's Report:

- Harbor Master Bell noted that the recently replaced and relocated "no wake" buoys have had little effect on boaters complying with speed limit rules. Harbor Master Bell believes that patrolling and enforcement by the Darien Police Department will be required to curtail speed infractions
- Harbor Master Bell has been informed that the five mid-channel buoys that he seeks to replace will each require a separate permit from the Coast Guard, and each permit application requires funding.
- The vendor which provides the on-line mooring system used by the Town of Darien has recently increased its rates. Harbor Master Bell will seek guidance from the Board of Selectman about increasing mooring fees to offset the price increase.
- Harbor Master Bell reports a continuing problem with persons having rights to moorings allowing third-parties access to their moorings. The Town of Darien has a number of residents on the wait-list to receive moorings and such people are disadvantaged by the non-permitted access to moorings.
- Chairman Huffard noted that he will seek a better understanding on the rules and procedures supporting the establishment of mooring fees.

Shellfish Report

- First Selectman Stevenson indicated that she will continue to seek the Commission's involvement in the review of shell-fishing permits presented to the Board of Selectman for consideration.

Taks Forces

Rock Hazard Task Force – No update was provided.

Long-Term Plan of Conservation and Development Task Force – No update was provided.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:07 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 7:30 pm, Room 119, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Vilter
Clerk