

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

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JANE BRANIGAN, PARK & REC COMM.
TOM BELL, HARBOR MASTER
CAPT. GARY PAVIA, POLICE DEPT.

Green's Ledge Light

Minutes of the October 3, 2012 Meeting

Present: Chairman McDonald, Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Huffard, Monro, Raleigh, Schoudele, Vilter, and Harbor Master Bell.

Absent: Commissioners Cavers, Kemp, Sparkman and Wallace.

Guests at the meeting for a discussion of the Darien Boat Club's expansion permit application included David Dever (Commodore, Darien Boat Club), and Randy Tankoos (Commodore, Noroton Yacht Club).

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by Chairman McDonald.

The minutes for the meeting of May 2, 2012 were reviewed and approved.

Chairman's Report

Bill Cavers, one of the Advisory Commission's Members, will likely resign.

The Chairman reported that Bill 220, was raised but not signed by the Governor.

The rock buoy located off a Long Neck Point, which was repaired by Jeff Eng at town expense in May, broke loose in August and was recovered. There will be need to grapple for anchor and chain.

Boat/Camp/2012 was held on July 27th and was successful, involving twenty motor boats and one hundred children from local day camps sponsored by Person-to-Person. Thanks go to volunteers from the Noroton Yacht Club, Darien Police Marine Unit, the Noroton Fire Department Marine Unit, the SoundWaters schooner, the Norwalk Maritime Center (Sheffield Island), the Coast Guard Auxiliary (Pirate and escort boats) and the Darien Sail & Power Squadron, and event coordinators, Judy and Frank Kemp.

The CT Harbor Management Association Annual Banquet was scheduled to be held Thursday, November 2nd in Branford, CT at the Woodwinds, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. and Members were invited to attend.

Harbor Master Report

Harbor Master Bell reported that three boats received material damage due to the recent storm. One boat had broken loose from its mooring. It is believed that the thimble had broken, as it had rusted away. An 18-foot Sea Ray washed onto Weed Beach. The bridle had broken at its mid-point. It was further noted that Jeff Eng keeps track of such incidents. Finally, a Frate fishing boat had sunk. The Noroton Fire Department boomed the boat. The owners had notified the Coast Guard of the incident.

Shellfish Report

Commissioner Raleigh reported that recreational shell-fishing in Darien was difficult this summer.

In early July, 60 bushels of clams were planted on the Great Island recreational bed by Pramer Co., in accordance with the three-year agreement with the town. 2013 is the final year of the agreement.

Mid-July – the CT Bureau of Aquaculture closed all shellfish beds in the town waters of Darien, Norwalk and Westport due to elevated levels of vibrio bacteria caused by unusually warm water.

Mid-August – the CT Bureau of Aquaculture confirmed that recreational beds in all three towns would remain closed for the foreseeable future. Commercial oyster beds in cooler, deeper waters were opened.

Mid-September – the CT Bureau of Aquaculture opened Darien's recreational beds for clams but not for oysters. Norwalk and Westport recreational beds remained closed.

October 1 – Recreational beds in Darien were opened for clams and oysters, except for Ziegler's Cove which remained closed to shell-fishing during the boating season, as is normal. Recreational beds in Norwalk and Westport were still closed to all shell-fishing.

Darien Boat Club – expansion and permit application

Representatives of the Darien Boat Club provided a summary of the application process, dating back to the last progress report at the May 2, 2012 meeting.

It was noted that a public hearing, for purposes of public comment, was to take place on October 10th. The Army Corp of Engineers and officials from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection would attend.

Representatives of the Darien Boat Club presented photos of the area impacted by the proposed expansion. The Commission commented upon the usefulness of the pictures and the Darien Boat Club representatives noted that they would undertake to provide additional pictures. In addition, the representatives addressed matters concerning the proposed dredging footprint, amount of material to be dredged, the benefits to the members of the Darien Boat Club if the expansion were to proceed and the impact upon those who have moorings which would have to be relocated if the expansion were to proceed.

Chairman McDonald noted that the drawing presented by the Darien Boat Club of the proposed expansion should be modified to include the public launch ramp and the two traffic lanes to and from the ramp. Further, Chairman McDonald noted that the Commission had drafted a letter addressed to the Army Corps of Engineers noting its concerns with the project. Finally, Chairman McDonald noted that the project will remain on the Commission's agenda and the Commission will keep itself informed on status and progress of the project.

Other Business

There was no other business to be considered at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, 2012, at 7:30pm in Room 213, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted, with thanks to Commissioner Vilter for providing assistance in drafting notes from the meeting due to the Clerk's absence,

Frank B. Kemp, Clerk