

# ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

FLIP HUFFARD, CHAIRMAN  
WILLIAM CAVERS, VICE CHAIRMAN  
ROBERT VILTER, CLERK  
HUGH BALLOCH  
ERIC BARRET  
DAVE DEVER  
C. LINCOLN JEWETT  
DAVID KAHN  
FRANK KEMP  
TOM LOCHTEFELD  
AUDREY WEIL

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:  
MARY FLYNN, PARKS & REC COMM.  
TOM BELL, HARBOR MASTER  
[To be named], POLICE



Green's Ledge Light

## Minutes of May 18, 2016 Meeting

**The meeting, held in Town Hall, Room 213, was called to order at 7:35 pm by Chairman Huffard.**

Present were: Commissioners Huffard (Chairman), Vilter (Clerk), Barret, Dever, Jewett, Kahn, Kemp, Lochtefeld and Harbor Master Bell (Ex-Officio).

Absent were: Commissioner Cavers (Vice-Chairman), Balloch, Weil and Mary Flynn (Ex-Officio).

The minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting were approved.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 2016 Plan of Conservation and Development
  - Chairman Huffard distributed excerpts of the 2016 Plan of Conservation and Development concerning the protection, maintenance and enhancement of our coastal resources.
  - Within the Plan, certain items are marked with a "CW" indicating that the Commission is to have a leadership role.
  - In addition, the Commission is to have a discussion on the pro's and con's of the Town establishing a formal Harbor Management Commission, as opposed to the current advisory body.

### HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT

- Harbor Master Bell reported that new mid-channel buoys have been ordered and will be reflective. New no-wake buoys will be larger than the previous buoys and more visible.
- Harbor Master Bell also reported that he will speak with Darien Police about closer monitoring of boat speeds.

## **SHELLFISH**

- Commissioner Kahn reported that he and Commissioner Weil met with Norm Bloom a prominent shell fisherman in Norwalk, CT, to learn more about shell fishing in local waters. A point of discussion was whether Scott's Cove could support shell fishing. Mr. Bloom commented that in his opinion there is no good location in Scott's Cove to farm oyster beds. Further, the State is reluctant to open Scott's Cove to shell fishing due to the number of septic tanks on private property in the area.
- On May 10<sup>th</sup>, Commissioners Kahn, Huffard, Barret and Weil joined Health Commissioner David Knauf, two State shell fish biologists and Mr. Bloom in surveying Darien recreational shellfish bed locations for public clamming. The view shared among the participants is that Darien currently lacks coastal areas that are good locations for public clamming. The ideal location would be one where there is a flat seabed and public access to such location from a beach.
- Chairman Huffard suggested that the Commission undertake an effort to update the Town's shell fishing map as the current map suggests certain areas for clamming which are known to not be suitable (i.e., Long Neck East Bed).
- Commissioner Kahn noted as next steps to follow-up with the State biologist to obtain more information on shell fishing in local waters and to discuss with local fisherman ideas on how to properly seed local beds to make them more productive.

## **TASK FORCES**

- Water Quality
  - Chairman Huffard and Commissioner Dever met with Kate Buch (the Town Administrator) about possible funding of the water testing program outlined by Harbor Watch. Ms. Buch is supportive of the water testing program and will discuss the matter with the Town Selectman. Ideally, the water testing program would be conducted the summer of 2016.
- Rock Hazard - Discussion
  - Chairman Huffard and Commissioner Lochtefeld will undertake a survey of rock hazards in coastal waters.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Update on Darien Boat Club Expansion
  - Commissioner Lochtefeld reported that the marine engineer re-drew the dock plans to fall within the lowest predicted tide line (LPT). This amendment reduced the planned expansion to an additional 57 slips. Since the original plan called for dredging of the mud flats outside the LPT lines, the plan had to be revised and the Boat Club is now seeking approvals from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environment (DEEP).
- Update on Darien Boat Club Tank Replacement
  - Commissioner Dever reported that the Boat Club had received two proposals for the work to replace the 29 year old fiberglass gas tank and would soon receive a third

proposal. Once the third proposal is received, the Boat Club would consider the options and choose a contractor to perform the work.

- Boat Squadron
  - Commissioner Kemp reported that the boat squadron recently completed an education program allowed participants to receive a State issued boating certificate.
  - Commissioner Kemp also reported that the squadron's Boat camp, which is associated with the Person-to-Person program, is scheduled for July 29th.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at Town Hall, Room 213.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Vilter

Clerk