

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
POLICE OFFICER DEREK MULCAHY



Green's Ledge Light

Minutes of September 21, 2016 Meeting

The meeting, in Room 213, Town Hall, was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Huffard.

Present were: Commissioners Huffard (Chairman), Cavers (Vice-Chairman), Barret, Dever, Jewett, Kemp, Lochtefeld, Weil, Balloch and Harbor Master Bell (Ex-Officio). Also present was John Lundeen, Chairman of the Friends of Gorham's Pond.

Absent were: Commissioners Vilter (Clerk), and Kahn.

Minutes of the June 15, 2016 and the July 20, 2016 meetings were unanimously approved.

UPDATE RE: UPPER GORHAM'S POND

John Lundeen, Chairman of the Friends of Gorham's Pond, provided an update on the progress of dredging and then erecting a dam and fish-ladder at the base of the Upper Gorham's Pond. At this point the dredging has been completed for an area approximately 6' deep, 100' wide (the width of the dam) and 100' upstream of the new dam. The pouring of concrete for the dam is now being completed, and it is anticipated that the weir boards will soon be inserted in the dam and the storage of water in the pond will begin. The fish ladder will be in operation from March 1 to July 1, the migration season for river herring.

Phase Two of the operation will take place within five years, as evaluations of the success of Phase One are made. Upstream landowners who are not now part of the dredging may begin to participate, and dredging of the main part of Gorham's Pond may be looked upon more favorably, due to the completion of this project.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Huffard noted that Officer Derek Mulcahy, who is in charge of the Police's Marine Unit, will be joining the Commission as an Ex-Officio member, and that it is anticipated he will be able to join us at our next meeting.

Chairman Huffard reported that he has been in discussion with Susan Cameron (Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission) and Jeremy Ginsberg (Director of Planning & Zoning, Town of Darien) concerning the location of septic fields and pools in the vicinity of the 100' coastal waterfront boundary. This Commission has shared with Ms. Cameron and Mr. Ginsberg its interest in assisting to pursue this endeavor.

Other current developments, mentioned in passing were the aggressive stance concerning nitrogen by-products on Nantucket and the fouling of the Nantucket harbors and beaches. Additionally, it was noted that the Ziegler property has been placed on the market.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT

Harbor Master Bell reported that the Eagle Scouts are nearing the completion of the harbor mooring survey. Interim results reveal that 12 boats were on the wrong mooring, and several moorings were not in use, and therefore eligible to be reassigned. He also noted that a fixed focal point camera (not a moveable camera) is anticipated to be mounted on the Pear Tree Point concession stand, and the link established on local web sites (Harbor Master, Boat Club, Yacht Club, etc.). He is awaiting permits and permissions to complete the effort.

SHELLFISH REPORT

Chairman Huffard reported that Commissioner Kahn is working with Tim Pramer to identify a source of smaller clams (seedling clams) to be relocated to Darien waters. The transfer of 50 bushels of seedling clams from a transfer area has not taken place because the raw materials are not available.

WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE

Commissioner Weil reported that the water quality monitoring project that was approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 25, 2016 has moved forward, with field work now under way. Commissioner Weil stated the 15 of the 32 sites have been inspected, with several sites having running water - an unusual condition during the dry months of summer. Bacterial testing of the samples will be reviewed to identify areas of special interest and "walk backs" to discover the source of the bacteria.

It was also noted that the Aquarion water company restriction on residential watering (except for hand-held hoses) had now become total, an upgrade of the prior restriction of two-days per week.

ROCK HAZARD TASK FORCE - no report at this time.

DATA TASK FORCE - no report at this time

UPDATE ON BOAT CLUB ACTIVITIES

Past Boat Club Commodore David Dever and Commissioner Lochtefeld reported that the expansion project is now on hold, due to the restrictions that have been imposed by the State DEEP concerning the dredging required for the project. Examination of the cost of the restricted expansion of the number of slips, in comparison to the revenue gained, has presented an elongated pay-back period (20+ years) that makes the project less economical than previously anticipated. The cost of sediment sampling would run over \$35,000 with no guarantee that the project would ultimately be approved.

The replacement of the two gas tanks (a 4,000-gallon and a 6,000-gallon tank) is proceeding on schedule - with permitting that is pending from Darien P&Z. Once approval is received, it is anticipated that one day of contractors' work in late November will see removal of the old tanks, testing of the surrounding soil, and preparation for the next phase. The completion phase will require approximately two weeks' effort and will see the installation of one 10,000-gallon tank, with a concrete pad, top, manholes and pumping mechanisms.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 19, 2016, at 7:30 pm, Town Hall Room 213.

Respectfully submitted, with reference to draft notes prepared by Commissioner Kemp.

Bob Vilter,

Clerk, Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters