

Minutes of the Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting
February 22nd, 2016

In attendance: Laura Mosher, Kate Haueisen, Colin Kelly, Gary Swenson, Jack Whitehead, Bill Peters, Brian Rayhill, Mac Patrick, Nina Miller.
Absent: John Dweck, Cassandra Hegarty.
Guests: Sarah Seelye, Frank Kemp, Tom Bell.
Regarding: Resolution 16-7.

Mac Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Tom Bell, a State of CT. Harbormaster, appointed by the governor, and mooring regulator for Holly Pond (Darien side), Zieglers Cove, Scott's Cove, Fish Island and Darien Harbor, presented to the committee his opinion on acquiring authority to regulate moorings and charge a fine for abuse of mooring ownership.

Of approximately 95 harbors along the Connecticut coast, about 15 do not have a formal Harbor Commission apparently because if you have one, you need to let the general public access your waters. Darien is one of the 15.

Since 1992, all moorings became the property of the state, not each individual town.

The problem at hand is that people pay for a mooring and either don't put a boat on it, put the wrong size or type of boat on it or, allow others to use the mooring. Letting others use one's mooring allows for boats of wrong type or size to be hooked to the mooring. The safety issue is that power boats and sail boats require moorings of a specific distance from others as they each "swing" in a circle of different lengths, called a swing ratio. Under current town rules, it is hard for the Harbormaster to fine mooring owners for this type of abuse and the police don't like to, thus this resolution to amend Article 2 of the Darien Town Code of Ordinances.

All members of the PH&S Committee present voted in favor of the amendment.

Mac Patrick adjourned the meeting a 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina Miller
2/24/6