

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

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C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN
WALTER RALEIGH, SHELLFISH
FRANK KEMP, CLERK
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HENRY STRAUSS
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GREEN'S LEDGE LIGHT

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

JANE BRANIGAN, PARK & REC. COMMISSION.
ROBERT PRICE, HARBOR MASTER
CAPT. GARY PAVIA, POLICE DEPARTMENT

Minutes of May 5, 2010 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm in Room 213 by Vice Chairman Jewett.

Present were Chairman McDonald, Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Raleigh, Strauss, Wallace and Ex-Officio Member Price (Harbormaster). Commissioners Kemp, Cavers, Monro, Schoudel, and Sparkman were absent.

Commissioner Raleigh agreed to take notes and forward them to the Clerk for further processing.

Also attending the meeting were:

- Commodore Chris Mangan, Dave Dever, Jerry Kutz and Art Morris, representing the Darien Boat Club
- A Rowayton resident concerned about construction noise on Five Mile River Road (no action taken)
- Greg Canuel from Mainstreet Connect, a community news service intended to help local merchants (no action taken).

The minutes of the February 3, 2010 Meeting were reviewed and approved.

Darien Boat Club Matters

Chris Mangan presented a brief history of the Darien Boat Club, its facilities and its mission. Any verified resident of Darien can apply for membership in the Club. It currently has 800 member families, but only 250 boat slips, resulting in a waiting list up to 14 years in length. The club seeks to expand two finger docks northward in the river, adding at least 100 more slips. This will require substantial dredging.

Two designs were presented. One extended the current floats, the other increased the distance between two docks to accommodate more boats up to 28 feet.

The commission questioned the designer about the widths of passage from the town launch ramp, around the north end of the proposed docks and in the main channel where there may be residential docks constructed in future years. The DEP may require the club provide pump-out facilities for the harbor, and the club septic system be connected to the Pear Tree Point Road sewer line.

There being no further questions from the commission, the boat club group promised to return later in the DEP approval process to report on progress and any design changes.

Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald reported that a new high speed ferry service has been proposed which would stop at Cove Marina in Norwalk. There were no other details.

He also noted that the commission had been asked to send a letter of support for a dredging project in Gorham's Pond. In the opinion of Richard Windels, who is championing the project, the dredging would reduce the amount of sediments in the harbor and thus lengthen the time between dredgings. After some discussion about the lack of any evidence of the impact of such a project on the harbor, the chairman agreed to provide a short statement suggesting that upstream dredging, such as the proposed project, sounded like a good idea to commission members. No vote was taken.

Harbor Master's Report

Harbor Master Price reported that mooring applications were being returned to him at an acceptable rate and that he would make a fuller report at the June meeting.

Shellfish Report

Commissioner Raleigh reported on meetings with First Selectman David Campbell and David Knauf, Director of the Darien Health Department.

Raleigh met with Campbell the week of April 5 to discuss the replacement of faulty documentation of the Joseph Buzzeo shellfish claims in the town clerk's office. The First Selectman suggested he would take care of the replacement. Raleigh agreed to check with the town clerk before the chairman asks Mr. Campbell about progress.

Other subjects covered briefly with the First Selectman were the current 90-day permit authorized by him allowing Roger Frate to dredge the restricted relay area in Scott Cove, the commercial shellfishing application and permit copy drafted by Evonne Klein's committee six years ago, the CT Bureau of Aquaculture's residential septic system survey and maps showing the numerous shellfish beds in Darien waters.

Raleigh met with Director Knauf on April 13 to provide him with the drafts of the commercial applications and permits proposed by the Klein committee. After his review he passed them on to town counsel for his review. Mr. Knauf indicated that Mr. Ed Schmidt, of the town counsel team, would like to see a commercial permitting process approved by "the end of the year."

"Managing Darien's Coastal Resources"

Vice Chairman Jewett passed out the latest iteration of this document, requesting that the commission review it so a vote might be taken in the June meeting.

Other business

There was a brief discussion of comments in a letter received from Mr. John Geissinger concerning moorings in the harbor. The chairman expressed belief that action on mooring requirements will be renewed at the June meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday June 2 in room 213, Town Hall, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, with thanks to Commissioner Raleigh for providing assistance with notes from the meeting.

Frank B. Kemp
Clerk