

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

JOHN McDONALD, CHAIRMAN
C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN
WALTER RALEIGH, SHELLFISH
FRANK KEMP, CLERK
WILLIAM CAVERS
ROBERT MONRO
JON SCHOUEDEL
J. PALMER SPARKMAN
MICHAEL WALLACE



Green's Ledge Light

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

Minutes of December 1, 2010 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm in Room 213 by Chairman McDonald.

Present were Chairman McDonald, Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Raleigh, Kemp, Cavers, and Wallace. Also present were Deborah Papaeconomou and Bob Vilter, members of the public.

The minutes of the October 6, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved.

It was noted that the meeting was being video-recorded for future playback on Channel 79.

Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald distributed copies of the Commission's 2009-2010 Annual Report (attached) which is to be included in the Town's Annual Report.

The Commission reviewed without comment the application for a pier, ramp and float at 33 Beach Drive, and a notice on meetings and procedures from the Town Clerk.

Chairman McDonald reported on the meetings that he has attended since the last Commission meeting:

- CT Boating Advisory Council in Norwalk on November 10, 2010
- High Speed Ferry Task Force in New Haven on November 22, 2010
- CT Harbor Mgt. Assn. on November 9 in Branford (representing Harbormaster Bell)

Future meetings of interest to the Commission will be:

- Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Council on December 9 in Stamford –
Commissioner Raleigh will attend along with Chairman McDonald
- Gathering of State Shellfish Commissions on February 7 in Hew Haven (Raleigh)
- Aquaculture Seminar on February 7 & 8 in Milford

Harbor Master's Report

The Harbor Master's report was distributed and reviewed (a copy of the report is attached). In that Harbor Master Bell was unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed to postpone discussion of some of the topics covered in his report. It was noted that while a provision in the Town ordinances prohibit the charging of a mooring fee, it is appropriate to request certain maintenance-type funding from the Board of Selectmen – as has been done in the past for charges associated with safety buoys in the harbor.

However, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved that the Proof of Insurance be requested with the 2011 mooring applications.

It was agreed that the other topics in the report would be taken up at the next meeting of the Commission.

Shellfish Report

Commissioner Raleigh reported that the First Selectman had returned an incomplete request for commercial shellfishing to a subsidiary of Fjord Fisheries. Commissioner Raleigh is going to prepare a procedural guideline for responding to requests such as these, so as to minimize the chance for procedural errors.

Commissioners were invited to join Commissioner Raleigh in attending the January 8 Gathering of State Shellfish Commissioners in New Haven.

The Darien Health Department is continuing to monitor the water quality of Scotts Cove, although it is the State Department of Aquaculture that is concerned about fundamental problems in the geology and terrain of surrounding properties in regard to the issues of septic fields and overflows into the waters. In the interim the shellfish areas within the Cove remain closed, while there are outlying areas that have remained open for shellfishing.

Meeting with First Selectman – November 17, 2010.

This 45 minute meeting was attended by Chairman McDonald and Commissioners Jewett, Raleigh and Kemp. 8 points were covered in an in an informal discussion, presenting a full range of the Commission's interests, passing out the recently approved document "Managing Darien's Coastal Resources" paper, and inviting the Selectmen's input on the Commission's activities.

Topics included in the meeting were:

- personnel numbers on the Commission – currently 9 of the authorized 11 positions are filled
- a request for action on authorizing ExOfficio member to vote at regular meetings (this will come before the Board of Selectmen at their December 13 meeting.
- The Buzzeo shellfish plot status
- A review of the Harbormaster's request for changes to the regulation of rafting
- Reporting on harbor silting and proposed pre-dredging expenditure
- Shellfish issues and water quality problems being addressed by the Health Department
- The need for a commercial shellfish policy and permitting process
- The scheduling of Flare/Up that is scheduled for May 14 at Weed Beach

Consideration of Harbor Master's proposed ordinance change on rafting

This topic was deferred until the next meeting at which time the Harbor Master will be able to present the reasoning that he sees for the revision of this ordinance.

Soundings of Darien Harbor

Commissioner Kemp reviewed the procedures used in an informal survey of the depth of the harbor, which was conducted on October 13, 2010. The result of this study indicates that the harbor has filled in by approximately two feet following the previous dredging of nine years ago. In view of the significant lead time, and the significant expense associated with a dredging project (even if it is a “maintenance dredging”) it was decided to investigate the procedures involved in positioning this project on the Town’s five year capital plan, so that funds may be available when needed.

An estimate of the costs of the first phase of the project (up to the point of receiving the permit, and the actual dredging) has been received from Mark Jackson, President of Coastline Consulting & Development, LLC, the firm that provided consulting assistance on the prior project. This estimate was for approximately \$11,000 plus the cost of laboratory analysis of the sapling, which could run to an additional \$6,000 in fees.

Commissioner Kemp will discuss this matter with Town Administrator Karl Kilduff, and report to the Commission at its next meeting.

Commissioner Jewett will review these activities at an upcoming meeting of the Darien Boat Club, noting that no funding requests have been made, and that the efforts to date are preliminary in nature.

Mooring Specification – discussion

Commissioner Monro’s report on mooring specifications was distributed for review (attached). In that he was not able to attend the meeting, certain questions on the development of the details to implement his recommendations were deferred until the next meeting.

Other Business

There was no other business presented for discussion.

Announcements:

The Darien Sail & Power Squadron will present the “Basic Coastal Boating” course at Middlesex Middle School, beginning Wednesday January 12, 2011.

Flare/Up/2011, a joint effort by the Commission and the Darien Sail & Power Squadron, will be presented on Saturday May 14, 2011 at Weed Beach. A permit has been secured from the Darien Park and Recreation Department for use of the beach from 9am to 1pm. Commissioners are invited to participate in this event.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday February 2, 2011 in Room 213, Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted

Frank B. Kemp
Clerk

Attachments:

Commission Annual Report 2009-2010	- Chairman McDonald
Harbor Master’s Report	- Tom Bell
Mooring Specifications Report	- Robert Monro

Darien Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters

2009-2010 Annual Report

Darien's coastal waters are one of our Town's most valuable natural resources. The stewardship of this is the responsibility of our Board of Selectmen with advice on complex coastal issues from the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters.

In 2009-2010 the had 6 Commission meetings and, in addition, had meetings with the First Selectmen, the Harbor Master, the Darien Health Director, the Darien Marine Police, the RTM, and local boating organizations. We also attended meetings outside of Darien with the CT/DEP Boating Division Advisory Council, the CT/DEP office of Long Island Sound, the EPA Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee, the CT Harbor Management Ass, the CT/Bureau of Aquaculture, and the Long Island Sound Councils. We were in regular contact with boaters in our neighboring shorefront towns on our issues. Our commission lost three members and welcomed two new members during the year, and we currently have two vacancies.

Managing Darien's Coastal Resources

The Commission has developed a summary of its role as steward for our coastal resources. This began with the adoption of a somewhat changed new commission resolution by the Board of Selectmen. This was followed by RTM AND CT/DEP final approval of our updated harbor ordinances in September 2009. With those foundations, the commission has been developing an overall plan for managing our coastal resources that will be presented to the Board of Selectmen next year for their comment and approval.

Boating Issues.

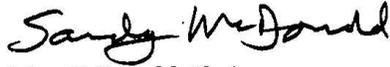
As part of our support of Darien boating, the Commission has been reviewing mooring specifications after several boats broke loose in storms. New recommendations will be forthcoming next year. The new Connecticut DEP regulations on boat bottom cleaning both in the water and after hauling are being studied along with other boating organizations. Water skiing in Holly Pond disturbing shore birds was addressed with the marine Police. Members of the commission continue to be involved in the development of safe boating education with the CT/DEP Boating Division.

Harbor Issues.

The Darien Harbor channel was last dredged in 2001 and the commission is monitoring changes due to silting. It is also active with outside organizations such as the Long Island Sound Study and the CT. Harbor Management Ass. working to keep disposal sites open in the Sound, the development of alternative disposal methods, and possible funding for small, recreational harbors such as ours from the government. Rafting of more than three boats in violation of our ordinance, particularly in Ziegler's Cove, remains an issue. The commission reviewed several new pier applications.

Shellfish Issues.

Scott's Cove remains closed to recreational shell fishing due to water quality problems. Ziegler's Cove also remains closed to recreational shell fishing during the summer. The Town, including the commission and the Health Department, is working with the CT Bureau of Aquaculture in trying to resolve this impasse. Also, working with the State, a new map of our shellfish beds off of Noroton Bay has been developed and will be submitted to the Town Clerk superseding the map currently on file. This process should also help to determine the actual water boundary with Stamford. The need for a commercial shellfish permit process has required study and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen by the commission.



John McDonald, Chairman

From: Darien Harbor <darienharbor@darienct.gov>
To: McDonald, John <jmcd51@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Nov 24, 2010 3:17 pm
Subject: RE: Mooring Specs

Sandy:

Unfortunately, I won't be able to make the next meeting of the Coastal Advisory Committee due to business travel.

I would like to have some ideas presented to the committee for them to ponder before the next meeting:

- I would like to sticker every mooring buoy in our harbors/coves with a "Darien Town Mooring Permit" label. This label would also have a printed # on it
 - This would allow the harbor master to better understand what boat is tethered to it and the # would be assigned when the renewal application for 2011 is granted.
- Discuss the possibility of assessing a \$10 fee per mooring buoy
 - Ideally this fee would be used to fund an online registration system - again an attempt to better understand what boat is on what mooring and whom the owner is. It would also track the tri-year inspections, required as permitted mooring owner.
 - It would also gather emergency contact information, manage waiting lists for the harbors/cove, etc. and is just a cleaner, more efficient method
- Formally get the opinion of the Committee of "requiring proof of boat insurance" before a permit is granted on a yearly basis.
 - In my discussion with near by towns - Greenwich, Stamford and Norwalk, Darien is the only town that does not require POI.
 - We narrowly avoided a disaster in the late Sept. storm when several boats broke free of their moorings. As you know, one boat was scuttled against the rocks - and that boat owner did not have insurance to have the boat removed.
- It is also not about just protecting the owner's boat, but the other boats that might be damaged.
- Start the process of changing Town Ordinance 78.31 - which states that no more 3 boats maybe "rafted" together. I'd like to amend the ordinance to state " no more than 3 boats may be rafted together 'unless additional boats are secured by an anchor and do not impede on other nearby moorings / boats in the near vicinity'" - or words to that affect.

I hope you have a great Thanksgiving and if we don't chat before, a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Sincerely

Tom Bell Harbor Master - Darien, CT
PO Box 1271 Darien CT 06820
203-655-9536 H 203-253-9519 C
darienharbor@darienct.gov

DARIEN MOORING SPECIFICATIONS REPORT
Nov 16 2010 by Bob Monro
Exec Summary

Background:

Over the last six months a mooring specification review and interviews have been made with Yacht Clubs and towns on the north shore of LIS with similar water exposures. Differences were noted.

Conclusions:

1. The specifications as written 7/97 are adequate for vessels under 40 feet and 15,000 pounds in shallow water (Under 10 feet at low tide).
2. The specification needs to be amended to cover the remainder of vessels in the mooring field that are longer and heavier.

Recommendations:

1. Larger and heavier vessel are best serviced by all chain in deep water even if the price of equipment and service is more expensive.
 2. A storm bridle of stout construction needs to be added for safety in severe conditions.
 3. Visiting vessels on moorings other than their own need ground tackle of a suitable size.
 4. Guest moorings need to have the size boat and weight labeled on the ball.
 5. The new specification need to be available by March 2011.
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