

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

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



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

Green's Ledge Light

Minutes of the December 5, 2012 Meeting

Present: Chairman McDonald, Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Huffard, Monro, Raleigh, Schoude, and Harbor Master Bell.

Absent: Commissioners Kemp, Sparkman, Vilter and Wallace.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37pm by Chairman McDonald.

The minutes for the meeting of October 3, 2012 were reviewed and approved.

Chairman's Report

The schedule

Chairman McDonald noted that the Commission's meeting schedule for 2013 had been distributed, and that it continued to be the first Wednesday of every month, excepting January, July and August. All meetings will be at 7:30pm in Room 213 Darien Town Hall. A schedule of the dates of these meetings has been enclosed, below, for reference.

Bill Cavers, a member of the Commission since 2010, has submitted his resignation, due to a new job in Oakland, CA. He has noted that he will remain a resident of Darien, and looks forward to returning at some point. The Commission noted the valuable contributions of Commissioner Cavers during the time of his service, and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

The Chairman noted the receipt of a letter from the Town Clerk, listing procedures to be followed by all Town Commissions regarding reporting, rules of order and the guidelines offered by the freedom of information act.

A copy of the Commission's 2011-2012 Annual Report to the Selectmen was distributed.

Due to the major storm, Sandy, the next CT Harbor Management Association meeting will be postponed to January.

The CT Boating Advisory Council met at the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium on Wednesday November 12, reviewing DEEP legislation and matters relating to the boating community.

The allocation of Federal funds for the LI Sound Study is under review, with reference to major storm Sandy.

Harbor Master Report

Harbor Master Bell reviewed the extent of damage suffered by Hurricane Sandy. No moored boats were lost.

Shellfish Report

Commissioner Raleigh reported that all recreational shellfish beds are now open for use.

Hurricane Sandy Report. The Chairman reviewed a post storm report from Greenwich. The Commission will try to determine if the harbor channel lost depth because of the storm. Damage at the Boat Club and the Noroton Yacht Club was discussed. It was concluded that all boating activities will be back in commission by Spring.

Darien Boat Club – expansion and permit application

It was noted that the Darien Boat Club is in discussion with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding issues raised in the Public Meeting of October 10th. The Chairman requested a copy of their comment letter.

Vice Chairman Jewett provided a preliminary draft of a memo, on the subject: “Darien’s ‘Coastal Waters:’ Control and Jurisdiction.”

Report of the Citizens Advisory Committee/ Long Island Sound Study. The CAC meeting of 9/13/12 was discussed including the proposed allocation of federal EPA funds for Long Island Sound. The proposed auction of Little Gull Island and Plum Island was discussed.

Report of CT Boating Advisory Council meeting 11/14/12. The Chairman reported that he has been reappointed to this CT/DEEP council by DEEP Commissioner Esty. The questions about boat titling, and a new boat yard in Stamford were reported. A letter supporting a boat yard will be sent to CT/DEEP. Safety of rowing crews, based on a Greenwich accident, was discussed. New CT Safe Boating Certificates will no longer be plastic cards, but will be printouts on paper starting in December.

Other Business

There was no other business to be considered at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2013, at 7:30pm in Room 213, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted, with thanks to Vice-Chairman Jewett for providing assistance in drafting notes from the meeting due to the Clerk’s absence,

Frank B. Kemp, Clerk

DATES OF COMMISSION MEETINGS IN 2013

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month, beginning at 7:30pm in Room 213, Darien Town Hall.

February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4

ATTACHMENTS: 2011-2012 Annual Report, Schedule of Meetings - 2013

Darien Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters

2011-2012 Annual Report

Darien's most valuable natural resource is the waters of Long Island Sound off the shores of Darien. The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Commission on Coastal Waters provide stewardship of this complex and beautiful property. Darien has 16 miles of shoreline, seven harbors, about 300 boat moorings, over 1,000 boats, and natural, recreational, and open shellfish beds.

Last year the Commission held 7 regular meetings in addition to over 13 other meetings outside of Darien at the EPA/Connecticut/New York Long Island Sound Study, on which Darien has a seat; the CT/DEEP Boating Division Advisory Council; the CT Harbor Management Ass. and several other Long Island Sound supporting activities. Our Commission added one member to fill out our 12-person roster.

Specific activities included:

- Finalization of our two-year analysis and review of our harbor mooring specifications for boats up to 50'. This included adaption of new multimaterial mooring lines, different sized anchors, and other fittings. The Harbor Master and the Board of Selectmen approved these specs.

- After 2 informal depth surveys of the Darien Harbor channel by Commission members, we contracted for a professional survey which revealed a loss of about 1½' ft. in depth since we last dredged to 8' MLW 11 years ago. With 6 ½' depth at MLW we decided that it was premature to begin a new major town dredging project for the channel.

- The Darien Boat Club proposal to increase the number of boat slips as communicated by the US Army Corps of Engineers, were carefully reviewed with the Boat Club officers. This included their hook up to the Town sewage system and the installation of a Pump-out facility; the first in our harbor. Of particular interest is the future viability of the Town Launching Ramp, the status of the adjacent boat moorings and neighbor docks, and the environmental impacts of this expansion. A letter expressing our concerns and questions was sent to the Army. The Boat Club is complemented on their new launch service to outer harbor moorings, which enables more Darien residents to enjoy boating in Darien.

- Responding to boaters' complaints, the Darien Town's Boat Launching Ramp at Pear Tree Pt. Beach was investigated. Results showed that the incline ranges from 9.9% to 8.9% vs. the State recommended standard for ramps of 12.5%. This makes launching difficult at certain tidal levels. A letter was sent to the Park & Recreation Commission recommending changes.

- Water quality for shellfish in Darien waters was given major attention, particularly in Scotts Cove, which has been closed to recreational shell fishing. Working with the Darien Director of Health and the CT Bureau of Aquaculture and other shore towns, we are investigating water-testing procedures. One issue is the ability to differentiate human from waterfowl pollution. Inspection and maintenance of shoreline septic systems is another issue. Finally, working with a commercial shell fish company clams were transplanted into our recreational bed near the entrance to Scotts Cove.
-
- Several new C T laws and regulations affecting CT boaters were tracked although none of the laws were passed at the session. The new CT environmental regulations on cleaning of boat bottoms were implemented, at extra cost to boaters.

We appreciate the input from the Commodores of the Darien Boat Club and the Noroton Yacht Club, and the Director of Health who joined us in some of our meetings.

Sandy McDonald, Chairman

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

JOHN McDONALD, CHAIRMAN
C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN
WALTER RALEIGH, SHELLFISH
FRANK KEMP, CLERK
WILLIAM CAVERS
FLIP HUFFARD
ROB MONRO
JON SCHOUDEL
PALMER SPARKMAN
ROBERT VITNER
MICHAEL WALLACE



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

2013 Meeting Schedule

7:30PM, Darien Town Hall, Room 213

Wednesday, February 6

Room 213

Wednesday, June 5

Room 213

Wednesday, March 6

Room 213

Wednesday, September 4

Room 213

Wednesday, April 3

Room 213

Wednesday, October 2

Room 213

Wednesday, May 1

Room 213

Wednesday, November 6

Room 213

Wednesday, December 4

Room 213