

# ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

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



Green's Ledge Light

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

## Minutes of the May 1, 2013 Meeting

Present: Chairman McDonald, Vice Chairman Jewett, Commissioners Monroe, Raleigh, Schouder, Sparkman, and Harbor Master Bell.

Absent: Commissioners Huffard, Kemp, and Vilter.

Also present: David Dever, Commodore of the Darien Boat Club.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm by Chairman McDonald.

The minutes for the prior meeting, February 6, 2013 were not available at the meeting. Review and approval of these minutes will be conducted at the next meeting, scheduled for June 5, 2013.

### Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald noted that the Annual CT Harbor Management Dinner will be Monday June 10, that all are welcome to attend, and that he plans on attending.

He noted that he had discussed with First Selectman Stevens the designation of Commissioner Raleigh as "Vice Chairman, Shellfish," and that this was agreed to be proper, in light of the additional duties that are required in this area.

The topic was discussed of implementing a permit system for contractors who moor boats/barges overnight while working on residential docks. It was noted that a contractor is permitted to anchor by virtue of the permit granted by the State to the resident building the dock, and that the contractor is responsible for any damage.

A service for Art Glowka, Stamford shellfish commission chairman and Long Island Sound fishing advocate will be held at Halloween Yacht Club, Sunday May 5, at 1:00pm. All are invited to attend.

### Harbor Master Report

The Harbor Master will tour the harbors to assess Sandy damage as soon as his boat is available.

He reported that 12 existing mooring holders have elected not to use their spaces in the harbor. 9 of these positions have already filled from the waiting list.

The Harbor Master reviewed the proposed video system, as described in the attached memo of March 25, 2013. With respect to the system's use for security, a DVR will record the images covering the entire harbor. If there is a need for close-up views of a boat, the images on the DVR can be zoomed.

Installation has already been approved by the Noroton Yacht Club and the Darien Boat Club. The \$6,000-to-\$7,000 cost of the project will be funded privately. No permission is required by this Commission. Chairman McDonald noted that the need for private funding of harbor dredging may be an issue in a year or two.

### **Shellfish Report**

Commissioner Raleigh's report is attached.

### **Reports on Storm "Sandy" damage and repairs**

Commodore David Dever, of the Darien Boat Club, reported that the club has opened with temporary repairs to the clubhouse. There is water on the docks and the rest-rooms are open. Pump-out and fueling facilities are not yet operational. The Town of Darien has granted a Certificate of Occupancy for the new ramps, contingent on the addition of a nonskid coating on the south ramp. The club has been issuing weekly newsletters that are posted on the web-site at [www.darienboatclub.org](http://www.darienboatclub.org)

Chairman McDonald reported that the Noroton Yacht Club repairs are continuing on schedule to allow season opening and the usual programs to take place. Although the building suffered no structural damage, long-range planning for the club will begin shortly, during which elevation and renovation of the building may be considered.

### **Other Business**

Vice Chairman Jewett reported on the March 13 meeting of the DEEP's Connecticut Boating Advisory Council, held in Norwalk. A new system for the issuance of CT Boating Certificates has been introduced, allowing graduates of boating courses to "buy" their Boating Certificates on-line (and print them out as many times as desired). Plastic Cards will no longer be issued by DEEP, although previously existing cards will continue to be valid.

The following handouts from the DEEP meeting were available for review: 1) Strategic Plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program 2012-2016 – 25 pages, and 2) State of Connecticut Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Program Narrative, October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013 – 15 pages.

Chairman McDonald reported that SoundWaters held a "Friends of Holly Pond" meeting on Wednesday March 27. The group learned of plans of the DEEP to issue an RFP to 1) address the mud-flats near the Post Road, 2) construct a fish ladder under the I-95 bridge, and 3) construct a fish ladder in the main dam at Cove Island.

Finally, Chairman McDonald reported that the Long Island Study had sent their funding recommendations for the Sound to Congress.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2013, at 7:30pm in Room 213, Town Hall.

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

Frank B. Kemp, Clerk

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1) Shellfish report for May 1, 2013
- 2) Harbor Master report to the Selectmen re installing video cameras, March 25, 2013

## Shellfish Report for May 1, 2013

### Permitting Process Completed for Jeniffer LLC (Frate)

Permits to transplant shellfish from the Restricted Relay Area of Scott Cove were issued to Messrs Frate by the Selectmen, and subsequently by CT Aquaculture. Originally, harvesting and transplanting to a distant bed were to cease by April 30, 2013, to avoid complaints from neighbors and boaters. In mid-April the Town and CT Aquaculture granted Mr. Frate an extension of the Scott Cove permit to May 17, following complaints that excessive amounts of seaweed in the Cove were making dredging difficult. It is expected that the later date will not interfere with commencement of the annual spawning of the Cove's oysters.

### Water Sampling in Goodwives River

On February 26 and April 16, samples of Goodwives River water were taken from docks owned by cooperating neighbors north and south of an oyster reef that has developed opposite the floats of the Darien Boat Club. The entire Goodwives River is closed to shellfishing year 'round, but CT Aquaculture has suggested that, if water and meat analyses meet Federal standards, the area of the reef might be opened for recreational harvesting from November to May, when there are no boats at the DBC. Bacteria counts of samples taken in February and April were encouragingly low, so the program is continuing. Three dozen oysters and more water samples were collected from the river on May 1. The oysters will be tested for the presence of any bacteria and viruses by the CT Aquaculture lab in Milford.

### New Shellfish Bed Granted in Town Waters

The town received a request from Roger Frate to harvest shellfish an area along the west coast of Long Neck Point. The area contains moorings, many underwater rock outcrops and is classified as a natural bed. The request was turned down by CT Aquaculture.

Aquaculture then identified an area east and south of Nash Island, which is unclaimed, according to Connecticut state records. With help from the harbor master, Jeff Eng of the Noroton Yacht Club, and a representative of the Nash family which has claims on certain parts of the harbor's bottom, the area suggested by Aquaculture was reduced in size to avoid moorings and permission was granted for the operator to dredge for oysters and clams until April 30.



## **State of CT Harbor Master Darien, CT**

March 25, 2013

To: Darien Board of Selectmen  
From: Tom Bell, State of CT Harbor Master, Darien  
Re: Discussion of Installing Video Cameras for Darien Harbor

### The Concept:

- We would like install 5-6 Video Surveillance cameras, recording devices and UPS backup systems in Darien Harbor:
  - 2-3 would be installed on the Noroton Yacht Club property;
  - 2-3 would be installed on the Darien Boat Club clubhouse roof;
    - We have permission from both clubs to use their facilities.

### The purposes would be three-fold:

- To monitor the activity in the main harbor for security purposes;
- To monitor the harbor during storms as a way to quickly identify vessels in distress or those that might have been separated from their moorings;
- To provide video access to any resident of the Town via links on the Harbor Master's webpage, and the websites of both clubs.
  - At least one camera at each club with be able to be controlled on the above websites for panning/zooming capabilities.

### Funding:

- It is our objective to have private donations cover the cost of this project.
  - Costs estimate is around \$ 7,000.

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