

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

JOHN McDONALD, CHAIRMAN
C. LINCOLN JEWETT, VICE CHAIRMAN
FRANK KEMP, CLERK
WALTER RALEIGH, SHELLFISH
CHERYL RUSSELL
JON SCHOUDEL
COLIN SEELY
PALMER SPARKMAN
HENRY STRAUSS



GREEN'S LEDGE LIGHT

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
JANE BRANIGAN, PARK & REC. COMM.
ROBERT PRICE, HARBOR MASTER
BUD MCGARRY, DEPUTY HARBOR MASTER
CAPT. GARY PAVIA, POLICE DEPT.

Minutes of February 4, 2009 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm in Room 119A by Chairman McDonald.

Present were Chairman McDonald, Commissioners Kemp (partial attendance), Raleigh, Seely, Sparkman and Strauss, plus Ex-Officio Member Price (Harbormaster). Commissioners Jewett and Russell were absent. Also present was Bob Monroe, a prospective member of the commission (to fill Republican-At-Large vacancy).

The minutes of the December 3rd, 2008 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Chairman's Report

Chairman McDonald reported on activities on behalf of the Commission, since the last meeting:

- Support being given for Federal Landriew Amendment in the Senate bill on infrastructure, including \$2 Billion to fund ecosystems restoration, including Long Island Sound.
- Long Island Sound Summit meeting to be held March 6th, 2009 in Bridgeport, 8:30-3:15 @ Holiday Inn & Conference Center. "Investing in Clean Water: for Sound health, jobs, and the economy" Speaker is Terry Backer, LIS Soundkeeper. First Selectwoman Klein suggested the Commission take interest. Harbormaster Price to attend.
- Connecticut Boating Advisory Council – Old Lyme (Jan 14). Proposed legislation includes increasing violations for Boating Under the Influence (BUI) from "reckless" to "manslaughter"; expanding authorization to use dealer registration numbers when operating boats; enacting a law to require fishing licenses for salt water. Chairman McDonald and Commissioner Kemp were awarded Certificates of Appreciation by CT DEP for contributions to the Boating Council. 2009 Boaters Guide was distributed. Chairman McDonald shared copies of Boaters Guide with the Commission.
- The Long Island Sound Assembly Report for 2008 was sent to the legislature. 9 page summary document distributed to Commission members by Chairman McDonald. The report covers many of the same issues concerning the Coastal Waters Commission, including Broadwater, Clean Water, Education, Harbor Management, Lobster and Shellfish, Dredging and Stormwater Management. Chairman McDonald holds full report, should any party be interested.

- Fairfield County Yacht and Boat Clubs meeting, January 13th 2009 at the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk. Commander Bob McKenna of the Coast Guard, LIS Sector (based in New Haven) discussed current practices for Search & Rescue, Homeland Security, Pollution Control, and Law Enforcement for Sector LIS. The expansion of the terror protection area, nearly to Darien, is significant.
 - o Harbormaster Price suggested possible alignment of Disaster Committee of Darien with Coast Guard initiative. Chairman McDonald to contact Mark McCuen (Noroton FD) to discuss.

Harbor Master's Report

- Harbor Master reported that funding had been allocated by the Town of Darien to replace the mid channel marker (buoy) destroyed in Sept '08.
- 5 Dock applications were received since last report. 3 are repairs, 1 new application in Scott's Cove (small) and 1 new on East side of Long Neck Point (70 ft).
 - Commissioner Raleigh commented that no response was received from letter written to CT DEP, expressing concern over recent approval of 160 sq ft float at end of pier on Nash Island. CWC guidelines recommend 100 sq ft maximum.
- Harbor Master expressed CT DEP desire for Darien to adopt a Harbor Management Plan
 - o Chairman McDonald updated Commission on similar situation in Greenwich, which does not have a Harbor Management Plan though recently designated a Harbor Master.

Shellfish Report

- Commissioner Raleigh provided an update on concern of water quality, stemming from ongoing testing being conducted by the State Bureau of Aquaculture. Commissioner Raleigh informed Commission of continued commitment by Health Director David Knauf to address clean water concerns. Issues include water test results (Aquaculture), potential faulty septic systems, ability and willingness to tie into existing sewer lines (including Darien Boat Club and Town Beach facilities).
 - Health Director Knauf contacted Mssrs DiDonna and Battey (Tokeneke and Delafield Island Association Presidents, respectively) to address non compliance by small number of residents for Aquaculture septic inspections. No response received.
- Commissioner Raleigh attended "Gathering of Shellfish Commissions" in New Haven. Ensuing discussions with Aquaculture representatives indicated probable closing of Scott's Cove to all shellfishing in near future, due to poor water quality test results. Small cut at mouth of Scott's Cove and area off Contentment Island expected to remain open. Aquaculture also indicated plans to test water further into Scott's Cove.
 - Shellfish permits may still be issued to commercial industry for sea oysters
 - Chairman McDonald shared knowledge of Branford, CT septic ordinance requiring cleaning & inspection every 3 years. Commissioner Raleigh to obtain copy of ordinance.
 - Commission to consider recommendation to BOS, should Scott's Cove be closed.

General

- Commissioner Kemp shared perspective from TGSA involvement. Town Officials considering ordinance revision, including solid waste disposal, septic & sewer systems. Involvement includes Bob Steeger, Director of Public Works.

- Chairman McDonald shared updated list of Coastal Waters Issues (4th Draft, dated 12/4/08)
 - o Key Issues
 - Approval of Harbor Ordinances by State of Ct (response pending)
 - Storm protection plan
 - Kayak and Paddle Boat education
 - Mooring specifications review after 3 boats broke free in storm (Oct '08)
 - Prospective member Bob Monroe to review current specifications

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Chairman McDonald informed Commission of possible cancellation of March 4th 2009 meeting. The next meeting of the Commission is likely to be Wednesday April 1st, 2009. Commissioners will be notified of any upcoming changes in the schedule.