

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

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



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

GREEN'S LEDGE LIGHT

Minutes of April 1, 2009 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm in Room 119A by Chairman McDonald.

Present were Chairman McDonald, Commissioners Kemp (partial attendance), Raleigh, Monroe, Russell (partial attendance), Schoudel, Seely, and Sparkman, plus Ex-Officio Member Price (Harbormaster). Commissioners Jewett and Strauss were absent. Also present was Lance Russell.

The minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved with one minor correction.

Chairman's Report

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

- A welcome to Bob Monroe, the newly appointed member of the Commission.
- Several Commissioners (McDonald, Jewett, Kemp, Raleigh) will be serving on the Safety Committee for the US Optimist Dinghy Association Team Trials to be held at Noroton Yacht Club, April 30 – May 3. Over 200 contestants are expected at this National event.
- The Town Clerk now has copies of minutes for all meetings of the Commission from April 4, 2008 onward, for posting on the Town's web site.
- Greenwich has a new Coastal Resources Advisory Committee. The Committee plans to charge \$100/mooring in town waters, despite State statutes prohibiting mooring charges for towns without DEP-approved harbor management plan. Greenwich reasons that since town marina has been charging for slips, that they should be allowed to charge for moorings.

Harbor Master's Report

The Harbor Master reported on activities on behalf of the Commission, since the last meeting:

- Mooring renewal applications have been sent to last year's occupants. They are due back 5/1. He noted that he has received more than the usual amount of early interest in moorings.
- He requested that he be apprised of any boats which may seem abandoned. Reportedly, boats are being abandoned in other states.
- Some floats will temporarily be anchored near the main channel to support the Darien High School sailing team, but they will be removed prior to the start of any seasonal boating activity.
- The Harbormaster noted that if Governor Rell confirms Gerald Kutz as Deputy Harbor Master, then he will replace Bud McGarry who is currently serving in that position.

Shellfish Report

Commissioner Raleigh provided an update on matters related to shellfishing:

- The State Bureau of Aquaculture has closed all of Scott Cove and its tributaries north of 41° 03.278' to recreational shellfishing. Additionally, the recreational shellfishing areas within Ziegler's Cove will be closed from 5/1 to 10/30 each year, due to the presence of some 30 moored boats. Raleigh distributed a map showing the available recreational shellfishing areas, which is also being given to shellfish permittees.

Discussion ensued as to how the southern boundary of the closed area might be signed. The map prepared by Aquaculture shows a single sign on the western end of the demarcation line. Commissioners suggested that either both ends of the line should be signed or that a range be developed from the location of the single sign.

Chairman asked Raleigh to invite Aquaculture to present its report to the commission.

General

Commissioner Russell reported that Park & Recreation has no one to teach kayak safety course. Kemp suggested that he will investigate whether the Darien Boat Club may want to sponsor such a course.

Chairman McDonald reported that the State will no longer be teaching boating safety courses, so that private contractors may expand their market for these courses, customarily known as the "short course" (8 hours). The "long course, taught by private boating groups will continue as at present.

The Chairman reported that the DEP has suggested minor wording changes to Darien's proposed ordinances Sections 5-4 and 5-7. The Commissioners voted unanimously (7-0) to accept these changes. These will be sent to the BOS and RTM for approval.

Commissioner Kemp announced that the next Safe Boating Course will begin on Monday April 27th at the Noroton Yacht Club. Attendance at the January Safe Boating

Course totaled over 50 participants. Course details and on-line registrations are available at the Squadron web site: dps.darien.org

Commissioner Sparkman announced that he has been elected Noroton Yacht Club's Safety Officer. He is forming a committee around 15 objectives for both on- and off-water safety rules. He expects to have a representative of the Chubb insurance company come to speak about risk/loss management. It was suggested that he contact the Town Emergency Manager Mark McEwen to coordinate plans.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is anticipated to be Wednesday May 6, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank B. Kemp
Clerk