

# ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

WILLIAM CAVERS, INTERIM CHAIRMAN  
JIM FURLONG, INTERIM VICE CHAIRMAN  
SAM BRIDGES  
DAVE DEVER  
FLIP HUFFARD  
JULIE JONES  
DAVID KAHN  
KEVIN MARKS  
ROB ROBERTO  
GRANT TANKOOS  
WILLIAM WRIGHT



Green's Ledge Light

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:  
LORENE BORA, PARKS & REC COMM.  
JOHN KEENA, HARBOR MASTER  
OFFICER JAMES PALMIERI, POLICE

## Minutes of Meeting – Monday, April 17, 2023

### Darien Town Hall, Room 119

Meeting began at 7:30PM

#### Attending:

William Cavers, Jim Furlong, Sam Bridges, Flip Huffard, David Kahn, Kevin Marks, Rob Roberto, Grant Tankoos, Bill Wright, Lorene Bora & John Keena

#### Guest Presentation:

- First Selectman Monica McNally who thanked individuals on the Commission for their hard work and giving of their time to the Town.
- Selectman Jon Zagrodzky spoke on Commission alignment with BOS in the context of Great Island.
- All Commission members gave quick introductions to their involvement with the Coastal Waters Commission. The three new members were welcomed: Sam Bridges, Kevin Marks, Rob Roberto
- Additional comments from Jon Zagrodzky included the following:
  - “Purchase of Great Island changes everything. We need to get it right”
  - Need to keep process transparent and all Darien residents well informed through continual communication always getting input from Town folks.
  - Selectman office must have exceptional interface with Coastal Commission throughout all stages.
  - There will be a 9-member Great Island Commission established. Island will not be open to the public until basic readiness is established- access, safe roads, signage, restroom facilities, etc. The new Great Island commission will work out-starting points and evolve over time how the property will be or not be transformed. Key point is preservation of natural assets.
  - Coastal Commission needs to connect with Selectmen on anything that

touches the water- Need to understand what coastal resources we have and use creativity and be smart about what we have and the execution of direction of these resources.

- Access will probably be initially the same as Weed and Pear Tree beaches
- Jon also spoke of the work John Keena Darien Harbormaster was performing to clean up the process and supports the drive to improve Town ordinances providing clarity regarding moorings. Jon wishes Coastal Commission to work with John and then come forward to BOS with agreed upon actions.

### Election of Commission Officers 2023

Vote approved Bill Cavers as Interim Chairman and Jim Furlong as Interim Vice Chairman. No candidates volunteered and no vote was taken for the commission's Clerk and Shellfish Commissioner roles.

### Discussion of Proposed 2023 Tasks

- Harbor Moorings will be a continual priority with John Keena eager to work with Commission to improve Town regulations. There are 5 or 6 harbors which are all a bit different. Also working on educational instructions for public to understand how the process of obtaining a mooring actually works. John is using proof of boat registration to realign some mooring use. As Darien does not have a CT Harbor Management Plan, it is important to construct tighter rules and regulation ordinances approved by the Town for John to manage properly. A subcommittee will assist John with his task to work through the changes needed.
- Coastal Consulting will be performing Darien Harbor depth survey on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The survey cost is \$4,500 split 3 ways -Town of Darien, Noroton Yacht Club & Darien Boat Club
- Safety - Water safety placards need to be replaced at racks pointing out dangers and preparedness when paddling especially cold water.
- Water Quality Testing - Unified Water Study will be continued this summer with Julie Jones, Sam Bridges and others coordinating.
- Clean up days- David Kahn will coordinate another debris clean-up day. Last year the commission pulled in 310 pounds of garbage.
- Shellfish - Darien clam beds have been reopened. Frates will replenish clam beds per their lease. David Kahn will mark locations at low tide for Frate to easily see the correct location to seed when he comes in at high tide.
- Website Improvement for Commission is encouraged
- High engagement by the commissioners on Great Island was encouraged. Chairman Cavers will request a tour of the Island for the commissioners

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.