

# ADVISORY COMMISSION ON COASTAL WATERS TOWN OF DARIEN

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Green's Ledge Light

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

## Minutes of Meeting Monday, May 15, 2023, 7:30 PM Darien Town Hall, Room 119

1. Call to order: 7:35pm
2. In attendance: Cavers, Bridges, Dever (by phone), Furlong, Jones (by phone), Marks, Roberto, Tankoos, Wright. Absent: Huffard, Kahn. Also joining: Bora and Keena

Following the Agenda previously distributed, discussed in order:

3. 2023 Harbor Channel Depth Survey (everyone joined in). The letter and harbor channel charts provided by the consultants Coastline Consultants, set the background for the discussion. Key take-aways:
  - a. Parts of the channel, including the waters from the boat ramp around the Boat Club, are shoaling and need dredging
  - b. It's a 2-year process to get permitted by DEEP, the Army Corps of Engineers, and others
  - c. The cost for the consultants to chaperone the permitting process is \$16,000. The question of who pays and whether it gets shared with NYC and DBC was raised.
  - d. If the permit is granted (after 2 years), it would be good for a 5-year period. If we get permitted in 2025 or 2026, the dredging could then be completed within the following five years.
  - e. It's not certain how much the dredging would cost, since bids have not been submitted, but indications are that it would be very expensive.
  - f. Unresolved questions include: i) who will take charge of the permitting process for the town, ii) who will pay for the dredging (earlier dredging projects had some sharing amongst the town, NYC, and DBC).

4. Great Island (everyone joined in). Newly acquired by the town, there's both near term actions/ideas that could be implemented practically immediately and there are longer term actions/ideas that would be good to consider. In the near term, the primary focus is on safety. A separate document "Great Island Discussion Points" has been prepared which is more comprehensive than what comes below. But items with a sense of urgency include:
  - a. Post large signs widely that say "At Your Own Risk". Suggested areas include i) the swimming beach at the far east end of the property, ii) the dock, iii) the rocks where fishing might be contemplated
  - b. Consider a very prominent "No Public Access" sign on the dock until such time as the land-based improvements are made, including, someone suggested toilets/port-a-potties.
  - c. Paint 1' wide stripes in red and white all along the length of the outer dock where the fire boat docks with "Fire Rescue" painted in the white. The point is to have the space free when the boat returns from a mission.
  - d. Consider repositioning the Police Boat to the dock for the summer (just until more of the infrastructure is in line with the town's "vision". That would require similar prominent marking if pursued.
  - e. How do we best accommodate what could be lots of dinghies all at the same time? Cleats, tie-up rails? We're not at all sure how much demand there will be; but we need to think through the possibility that there will be lots of bigger boats in the harbor on a given weekend and that many visitors will want to come ashore.
  - f. Longer term, we're aware that there are the remnants of an old salt water swimming pool just off-shore from the swimming beach at the eastern end of the property. The opinion was expressed that this represents a boating and swimming hazard. Longer term, the question of removal becomes relevant. Shorter term, the question of setting some hazard buoys is worth further discussion.
  - g. Given that Great Island enables immediate access to the town's shellfish beds, shellfish safety was discussed. It fluctuates with fresh water run-off and other causes. How do we let people know of harmful conditions? One suggestion was to have a QR code that would feed a potential digger to a site with information (this was proposed as preferable to having a manually managed sign that actually required someone to operate at the relevant locations.
5. Harbor Master's Report (Keena)
  - a. There's a wait list for moorings of approximately 200. It's a complex formula for distribution depending as it does on boat length, draft, weight, and years on wait list and available space at various depths, etc.
  - b. The season started with approximately 35 slots of which there are still 15 to assign.
6. Kayak Rack Safety Signs (Furlong)
  - a. New signs have been posted on all the racks in town! The signs simply/clearly display 4 key safety messages.
7. No Additional Business was raised.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm