

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, July 10, 2023

Darien Town Hall, Room 119

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Chairman Cavers.

Commissioners Present: William Cavers, David Dever, Julie Jones, David Kahn, Bill Wright, Sam Bridges, Kevin Marks, Chairman of Parks and Recreation Commission Lori Bora and Harbor Master John Keena. Flip Huffard and Rob Roberto attended by phone.

Commissioners Absent: James Furlong, Grant Tankoos

Presentation and Discussion with Nikki Spiller, Director of Harbor Watch

- Ms. Spiller gave an overview of Harbor Watch and its water quality testing operations.
- Harbor Watch's 2022 annual report on the water quality of the rivers of Fairfield County was discussed with a short review of recent results for the Noroton and Five Mile Rivers. Harbor Watch's 2017 contracted monitoring of Goodwives River with its subsequent find of two pollution sources was also discussed.
- The Pathogen Monitoring Network has recently been created by Harbor Watch and the Interstate Environmental Commission (IEC) in New York. A pilot season has been launched, resulting in the close monitoring of an initial selection of Long Island Sound tributaries and embayments for bacteria. Darien's waters did not make the initial list of waters to be monitored, but we could initiate our own (self-funded) inclusion.

Presentation and Discussion with Selectman Jon Zagrodzky, Town of Darien

- Selectman Zagrodzky reported on the town's recent formation of a Great Island Advisory Committee to help the town with vital decisions on the public opening and development of Great Island.
- Selectman Zagrodzky noted that the town had received 65 public applications for the committee and ultimately chosen four highly qualified residents – Bruce Ferguson, Daniel Kolakowski, Jeffrey Taebel, Kipp Visi. These four will join key town officials Mark Adiletta (RTM), Lori Bora (Parks & Rec), Mike Burke (BOS), Jim Palen (Board of

Finance) and Jon Zagrodzky (BOS) on the committee. The committee will have its first meeting next Wednesday, July 26.

- The priority for the commission over the next 6-months will be to make the island safe for public access, determining what can and cannot be done to safeguard the public.
- Selectman Zagrodzky noted that the Coastal Commission's perspective would be invaluable on a number of aspects involving the Great Island purchase. The Chairman of the Coastal Commission will serve on the Great Island committee on an ex-officio basis.
- To further the Commission's knowledge on the Great Island property and upcoming work, Selectman Zagrodzky agreed to seek a tour of the island for the Commission.

Approval of Minutes

The Commission approved the minutes from our June 12, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Wright agreed to catch the Commission up on its missing April minutes. Commissioner Bridges noted that May's minutes had been emailed and Chairman Cavers agreed to check on their formal submission.

Chairman's Report

- Due to the already full agenda, no Chairman's Report was given.

Harbor Masters Report

- Harbor Master Keena noted that he and the Darien Police Marine Unit are continuing to look into a No Wake buoy for the area just outside of Ziegler's Cove. They both recommend not only a Zeigler's speed buoy, but also another speed buoy to the northeast toward the Fish Island area. He has discussed the matter with the State of Connecticut and learned that since Ziegler's Cove is not listed as one of Darien's official harbors in the town's ordinances, the permitting of a buoy will be a more involved process taking 6-9 months. As such, HM Keena agreed with the state to undertake the application process during the winter season.
- The work of the Harbor Mooring Policy Committee was briefly discussed with Commissioner Marks stating that he would help advance the committee's workload in the weeks ahead. A follow-up meeting is not yet scheduled.

Updates on Commission Activities

- The Commission's scheduled July 22nd clean-up was confirmed by Commissioner Kahn. Interested participants should meet at Pear Tree Point Beach at 8 AM on the 22nd. The clean-up will last for two hours.

Other Business

- Commissioner Marks gave a follow-up review of his findings on Sea Tow and Boat US's life preserver loan programs. He noted that most programs require there to be a local sponsor or administrator. The Commission briefly discussed the value of undertaking a local program, with Chairman Cavers noting the worth of furthering safety on our waters. The commission briefly discussed whether the town would want to undertake a program independent of these outside commercial entity programs. It was agreed to table to the topic until the fall meetings.

Adjournment

Chairman Cavers adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.