

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 Special Meeting – Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Darien Town Hall, Auditorium

The Special Meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairman Cavers.

Present: William Cavers, Rob Roberto, Flip Huffard, Jim Furlong, David Kahn, Grant Tankoos, Bill Wright, Sam Bridges and Kevin Marks, Harbor Master John Keena. Julie Jones attended by phone.

Absent: David Dever, Chairman of Parks and Recreation Commission Lori Bora

The minutes from October 24th were approved by a vote of the Commission.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Cavers reminded Commissioners that they should put their names forward for renomination with the Board of Selectman and on an accelerated basis: by this Friday, November 17th. Chairman Cavers also pointed out the need for new officers to emerge to enable the functioning of the Commission and its start-up for the 2024 season with its first scheduled meeting in February.

Harbor Master's Report

In a generally quiet time of the year, HM John Keena updated the Commission that there was a clamming boat actively clamming in Darien Harbor, in what appeared to be in and around the mooring field. It turned out to be a Bloom Brothers boat. They have legal access to that lease parcel, but not in and near the mooring field. This same boat was noted to be clamming in Noroton bay on another occasion. The MH noted he spoke to the operator and more follow up was needed to find the exact boundary and if mooring need to move, or is stakes are not located appropriately.

Mooring ordinances changes review and updates:

The discussion began with Kevin Marks giving an update on what the working committee had been working on, what the problem was, what led to the need to review and update the mooring ordinance. To summarize this, the demand and popularity of boating during Covid increased the

number of people active on the water and seeking moorings. This new and increased demand led to a large wait list for moorings and some residents questioning the process, procedure and how it all worked.

The goal of this committee is to figure out a better way to manage the harbor moorings, create transparency, procedure and fairness in the process. The old ordinances were outdated and didn't give the HM adequate authority as is granted to him by the state. Along with clearer identification of the harbors, and mooring standards, the HM is seeking to create "transparency, clarity and process" so everyone knows how the process works. HM Keena spoke on these points of process, fairness and procedure.

Commissioner Kevin Marks led the group discussion on the draft document the committee prepared. This document was referred to as DRAFT 3. This was the most updated version.

At this point, the entire commission began reviewing each and every article and point of the document. Any and all were welcome to make comments, ask questions about the language, intent, purpose, and/or value of the sections discussed. Some wording was changed and some sections removed as a group, through lengthy and thoughtful discussion. The best way to view this is to watch the recap on TV Channel 79 as much of the discussion was detailed and nuanced.

The discussion continued to approximately 10:30 PM and covered pages 1 through 5 of the draft. The meeting was adjourned, and a second special meeting was agreed to be scheduled in December as soon as possible, which turned out to be November 29th, to finish the document review.

Adjournment

Chairman Cavers adjourned the Special Meeting at 10:38 PM.