

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
SHELLFISH COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – March 9, 2011**

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on March 9, 2011 at 7:30 PM in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Honorable John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Edward Crowley Jr., Chairman; Sanford J. Wakeman Jr., Vice Chairman; Gregory D. Lanute, Secretary; Sally Harold; Paul Nelson; David Thornton

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cathy Raynor-Catropa

**ALSO PRESENT:** Thomas J. Steinke, Conservation Director; Devin Santa, Engineer for Pequot Yacht Club; Milan Bull, Conservation Commission

**CALL TO ORDER:** Edward Crowley Jr., Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

**I. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2010

Sanford J. Wakeman, Jr. *moved*, Sally Harold *seconded* to accept the minutes of February 9, 2010 with corrections to spelling errors. *Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Crowley – Edward Crowley, Jr. spoke with Jim Salce, who indicated he was willing to do a transplant and complete testing in Southport Harbor in the spring.
2. *Water and Habitat Quality:* Wakeman, Harold, Raynor-Catropa – Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. reported that recent sampling been generally positive.
3. *Permits and Access:* Thornton – No report presented this evening
4. *Commercial Shellfish Regulations:* Crowley, Wakeman, Harold – No report presented this evening
5. *Oyster Bed Development:* Lanute, Thornton, Harold – No report presented this evening

## II. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Sanitary Survey of Shoreline

Thomas J. Steinke reported that the revised RFP has been sent to the purchasing department and they have published it on the town's website. The submission deadline is March 29, 2011.

### B. CT DEP-OLISP Application of Pequot Yacht Club, Inc. for maintenance dredging in Southport Harbor

Thomas J. Steinke summarized the yacht club's steps thus far and his recommendations. He noted that the permitting process requires a statement from the Shellfish Commission to DEP as to whether or not the Shellfish Commission believes a significant adverse effect would occur to the resource as a result of the project.

David Thornton indicated that upon his review of the proposal and the presentations by the engineers, there would be few adverse effects.

Sally Harold questioned the effect of testing time and season on meat test results. She also discussed bank stability with regard to the channels.

Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. noted that metal contents are much higher now than in 1998.

David Thornton noted that the report of David Carey at DA/BA includes a commitment by the yacht club to test meats before and after the project.

Edward Crowley Jr. discussed DA/BA's desire to have pre and post project testing because of concerns about metals moving southward during dredging. He also noted that shellfish outside the harbor area will be tested to check those concerns.

David Thornton *moved*, Sanford J. Wakeman, Jr. *seconded* to Thomas J. Steinke signing the DEP document stating that the Shellfish Commission expresses the opinion that no adverse effect on the shellfish resource would occur as a result of the project. *Motion passed unanimously.*

### C. 2011-2012 Budget Request

The budget hearing for the Shellfish Commission will be held on March 14, 2011 at 7:00 PM.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

A. CT DEP-OLISP Application #200801481-TS, Joel Bronz and Carlo Ciardi, 21-23 Old Dam Road, Fairfield, CT - Removal of existing unauthorized dock and installation of new dock

Thomas J. Steinke briefly discussed the project and recommended that the Shellfish Commission endorse it. He noted that the project involves removing an unpermitted dock installed by the previous property owner in favor of a new dock. The existing structure is poorly placed and the location of the proposed structure is better as it is sited to be less obstructive to the channel.

Thomas J. Steinke also observed that the proposed structure includes two lateral lifts which will facilitate recreational boating for the owner and not impede the channel. He also noted that the project will not adversely impact the shellfish resource.

Sally Harold *moved*, Gregory D. Lanute *seconded* to endorse the proposal as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

B. US Army Corps of Engineers, 45 Day Public Notice - Reissuance of Dept. of the Army CT General Permit

Thomas J. Steinke discussed the Army Corps of Engineers' general permit renewal for Connecticut. There are two aspects to the action: inland waterways and tidal/aquaculture.

The guidelines dispense with pile-supported floats in favor of strut-supported floats with skids underneath to protect the bottom. Those structures can be easily removed for dredging.

Thomas J. Steinke noted that Southport Harbor has lost about 90% of its viability for shellfish growth due to development of various structures in and around the harbor, such as utility lines and storm drainage.

Edward Crowley Jr. indicated the Shellfish Commission should support the revision, but with Thomas J. Steinke's recommendation regarding type of docks that should be used and under what circumstances this type of permit should not be used.

David Thornton *moved*, Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. *seconded* to endorse the proposal as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Shellfish Grow-Out Planning

Edward Crowley Jr. discussed the status of the shellfish grow-out program with the state aquaculture school. He noted that anything grown in the marina and put into the beds would force closure for at least two years, and he therefore is hesitant to engage in a program that would result in closure of the beds.

Thomas J. Steinke also discussed why growing shellfish in the marina and transferring the beds would have negative impact on public access to the shellfish resource. Marinas are prohibited areas due to pollution. He briefly compared Fairfield to Westport, and noted that Westport has more possible growth areas that would not impede beds being open.

**IV. INFORMATIONAL**

- A. 2010-2011 Budget Status – Informational
- B. Shellfish Fund Balance – Informational
- C. License Permits issued through February 28, 2011 – Informational
- D. NOAA-TNC Partnership RJP - Funding Opportunity – Informational
- E. February 11, 2011 New York Times Editorial – Informational
- F. Town of Fairfield Harbor Management Commission Draft Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2011 – Informational
- G. Town of Westport Shellfish Commission Meeting Agenda of March 2, 2011 – Informational
- H. Phone Calls for status of open or closed for February 2011 – Informational

**V. OTHER**

Sally Harold briefly discussed a workshop in which she is involved with reference to the Saugatuck River watershed area.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Sally Harold *moved*, Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. *seconded* to adjourn at approximately 8:10 PM. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony Monelli