

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

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on November 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, Chairman; Sanford J. Wakeman, Vice Chairman; Gregory D. Lanute, Secretary; Paul Nelson; Cathy Raynor-Catropa; David Thornton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sally Harold

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas J. Steinke, Conservation Director

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

I. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2011

Paul Nelson *moved*, Sanford J. Wakeman *seconded* to accept the minutes of October 12, 2011. *Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Crowley – No report presented this evening
2. *Water and Habitat Quality:* Wakeman, Harold, Raynor-Catropa – Shellfish beds are open but the water quality is satisfactory. Sanford J. Wakeman is no longer testing the water as the state is sampling the water, but not providing sampling results.
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. CT DEP-OLISP, COP Application of the Town of Fairfield to remove Pine Creek ditch sediment and retain 42” diameter storm sewer pipe between Ruane and Thorp Streets

Richard White, Director of Public Works, previously agreed to the Commissioners' suggestions and briefly reviewed the project. St. Thomas Church will be asked to grant an easement.

Gregory D. Lanute *moved*, Sanford J. Wakeman *seconded* to endorse the project since all of the Shellfish Commission's recommendations have been accepted. *Motion passed unanimously.*

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee for Election of Officers for December Vote

Edward Crowley appointed Gregory D. Lanute, Cathy Raynor-Catropa and David Thornton to the nominating committee. He indicated that he will no longer be chairman or a member of the Commission because his term is ending.

B. Draft 2012 Meeting Schedule for December Vote

The Commissioners reviewed the schedule and will submit any issues for the vote in December.

C. 2012-2013 Shellfish Commission Budget – Review and Discussion on Upcoming Shellfish Commission Budget Request

Thomas J. Steinke noted that the only issue outstanding with respect to the budget request is the inability to get a bid on the shellfish sanitary survey. Funding for that item will be removed from the budget request. The only person who had expressed interest was a retired town employee who cannot contract for the project due to pension regulations.

The state will conduct a sanitary survey of Fairfield pursuant to its regular schedule in 2013.

David Thornton discussed the credentials needed for a contractor to complete a survey. Thomas J. Steinke indicated that the contractor would need to be a sanitarian and he reviewed the types of tasks necessary in completing the survey.

Sanford J. Wakeman *moved*, Paul Nelson *seconded* to amend the budget request so as to remove that portion of funds requested for completion of the sanitary survey. *Motion passed unanimously.*

D. CT DEEP-OLISP, Notice of Tentative Determination – Notice of Intent to Waive Public Hearing, Application No. 200400010-TS, Town of Fairfield Harbor Management Commission, Proposal to remove derelict structures, repair existing pier, install new community sailing dock consisting of ramp, float and piles, repair and expand existing boat ramp, install float atop existing boat ramp, and conduct new dredging for recreational boating. Proposed activities to be conducted at the Lower Wharf and Ye Yacht Yard.

Jeff Steadman of the Harbor Management Commission had requested the item be delayed for his arrival, so the Commissioners discussed the informational item, that item having no discussion, ahead of the Harbor Management Commission's agenda item.

Mary von Conta, Chair of the Harbor Management Commission presented maps and photographs of the proposal and harbor area. She reviewed the maps and discussed the locations of the removal of structures and piles.

She then discussed the dredge area, which will be dredged to a maximum depth of 6 feet with some areas dredged for 4 feet. The boat ramp will be extended and a float installed along side. The float will go up and down with the tide and rest on piles. With respect to the removal of pilings, they will be pulled out, not cut off.

The Ye Yacht Yard area is the only public access to the harbor. The community sailing dock will improve public access to Southport Harbor. Mary von Conta briefly described the community sailing program and that its equipment will be stored at Ye Yacht Yard. The size of the dock will be adequate to launch the program's boats and accomplish the program's goals.

Milan Bull of the Conservation Commission inquired about the extent of dredging to the boat ramp. Mary von Conta noted that the dredging would be done up to the bottom of the boat ramp. They further discussed the limited parking at Ye Yacht Yard. Mary von Conta noted that overall, the proposal will improve safety and access with respect to getting boats in and out of the water.

Sanford J. Wakeman discussed other ramps and docks in the area. Mary von Conta discussed how property owners access the channel and the riparian or littoral rights they have. With respect to the dredging area, few or no plants exist there and the dredging will avoid the intertidal flat as much as possible.

Edward Crowley discussed issues of mitigation and Mary von Conta noted that the Harbor Management Commission will engage in a discussion of possible mitigation.

The town had previously allocated \$150,000 toward this project. Another \$50,000 in user fees has been put aside. Permit fees and donations would cover the remainder.

Mary von Conta indicated that she would like to review Thomas J. Steinke's report to the Shellfish Commission which he noted as being near completion. She further indicated that she would like to form a work party to cooperate outside of the commission meetings to review issues and report back to the respective commissions.

As a timetable, permitting is the first step and bidding the second. When the project starts, the bulkhead will be the first item addressed because that has to be solid before any other work is done.

The public comment period on the application with DEEP ends on December 12, 2011. Edward Crowley and Mary von Conta discussed obtaining an extension of the comment period so that both commissions can have an additional meeting before the comment period ends.

Edward Crowley agreed to form a working party and request an extension of the comment period. At that point, the working party can report back to the Shellfish and Harbor Management Commissions, and the Commissions will have the opportunity to review Thomas J. Steinke's report on the proposal.

Sanford J. Wakeman *moved*, Paul Nelson *seconded* to table the proposal to the December meeting. *Motion passed unanimously.*

IV. INFORMATIONAL

None

V. OTHER

None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Sanford J. Wakeman moved, Paul Nelson seconded to adjourn at approximately 8:25 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Monelli