

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

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on February 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; Cathy Raynor-Catropa; David Thornton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Salce, Devin Santa, Peter Pellegrino, Milan Bull

CALL TO ORDER: Edward Crowley Jr., Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM

I. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2010

Sanford J. Wakeman, Jr. *moved*, Gregory D. Lanute *seconded* to accept the minutes of December 8, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2011

Meeting cancelled due to weather

C. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Crowley – No report presented this evening
2. *Water and Habitat Quality:* Wakeman, Harold, Raynor-Catropa – Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. reported that recent sampling has been generally positive, though abbreviated due to snow. The Commissioners discussed DA/BA possibly ending the program by which they test local samples.
3. *Permits and Access:* Thornton – New permits are available
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

No proposals were returned on the sanitary survey. Thomas J. Steinke discussed better defining the project to storm, sanitary and septic sampling, as well by geographic area to storm sewer watershed area on the west side of town. It is possible that the state will complete its own survey in 2012, depending on availability and funding. Thomas J. Steinke further described long term trends in water quality and areas open for shellfishing.

B. Exide - 2190 Post Road, Fairfield, CT - Status

Thomas J. Steinke discussed various types of mitigation for the Mill River, the levels to which Exide will abate the contamination, and the anticipated length of the project.

C. License Permits - Discussion on sale of permits at other locations

The Commissioners discussed the former sale locations of shellfishing permits. Edward Crowley Jr. noted that ease of control over the permits and convenience to those seeking permits is balanced by having the permits only available from the Conservation Department office.

D. 2011-2012 Budget Request - BOS/BOF Budget Hearing Scheduled for March 3, 2011

Thomas J. Steinke noted that the budget hearing is March 14th and the budget process no longer includes a presentation from the department heads.

E. CT DEP Draft Residential Dock Regulations

DEP has not put out a revised proposal and have been denied legislative approval. Thomas J. Steinke discussed that the proposal has been shelved, and briefly described some of the points of the DEP's proposal.

F. 2011-2012 Draft Budget

No discussion

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. CT DEP-OLISP Application of Pequot Yacht Club, Inc. for maintenance dredging in Southport Harbor: Applicant's Presentation

Devin Santa, an engineer for Pequot Yacht Club, presented a general overview of the project. He presented maps and discussed current depths of the harbor. He noted that a three foot increase, from -6' to -9', in depth would better match federal guidelines and better suit the needs of the yacht club.

Sanford also discussed concerns of Thomas J. Steinke regarding disposition of dredged material.

Edward Crowley Jr. inquired as to the extent to testing for heavy metals. Santa nor Peter Pellegrino, were able to provide specific comparisons to points within the area at certain depth points, but noted that as part of the permitting process they were required to do testing. As part of the project, they will be conducting meat sampling.

Both Santa and Pellegrino noted that the fine, silky quality of the sediment is not conducive to shellfish growth, even with the addition of cultch, because the cultch would be covered over with sediment.

Santa noted that access to shellfish will be maintained and reiterated compliance with state regulations relating to actual excavation.

Edward Crowley Jr. noted his concerns about heavy metals moving down the harbor to the only open shellfishing area.

B. DEP COP Application of Stephanie Scott for Timber Bulkhead Reconstruction at 2308 Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield, CT

Gregory D. Lanute *moved*, Sally Harold *seconded* to recommend to DEP. *Motion passed unanimously.*

C. Shellfish Grow-Out Planning

Paul Nelson discussed the use of the upweller to proliferate the shellfish population.

Edward Crowley Jr., Jim Salce, and Thomas J. Steinke discussed past difficulties with shellfish growing programs, such as coordinating labor, unauthorized harvesting, and pollution.

IV. INFORMATIONAL

- A. 2010-2011 Budget Expenditure Status – Informational
- B. Shellfish Fund Balance – Informational
- C. License Permits issued through December 2010 – Informational
- D. License Permits issued through January 31, 2011 – Informational
- E. 6th Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions, January 22, 2011 – Informational
- F. Town of Westport Shellfish Commission Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2010 and January 4, 2011 – Informational
- G. Town of Fairfield Harbor Management Commission Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2010 and Draft Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2011 – Informational
- H. Phone Calls for status of open or closed for December 2010 and January 2011 – Informational
- I. December 16, 2010 Fairfield Police Department Safety Tips for Meetings – Informational
- J. Management Plan and Memorandum of Understanding for the operation of the Conditionally Approved Area A - Sasco Hill Beach effective 8/1/10 – Informational
- K. Parliamentary Procedure - based on the principles of Robert's Rules of Order – Informational
- L. Fish Farming News Issue 5, 2010 - Article entitled "Acid Oceans: Dissolving Clam Shells May Be Just The Beginning" – Informational

V. OTHER

None

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 9:30 PM. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Monelli