

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – December 12, 2012**

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a regular meeting on December 12, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the First Floor Conference Room of the Fairfield Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sanford J. Wakeman, Chairman; Robert Bilek, Vice-Chairman; David Thornton, Secretary; Sally Harold; Paul Nelson; Cathy Raynor-Catropa

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas J. Steinke, Conservation Director

CALL TO ORDER: Sanford J. Wakeman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

I. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2012

Robert Bilek *moved*, Sally Harold *seconded* to accept the minutes of November 14, 2012. *Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Bilek, Thornton – No report presented this evening
2. *Water and Habitat Quality:* Bilek, Wakeman, Harold, Raynor-Catropa – Robert Bilek reported that DA/BA opened the shellfish beds as of December 7, 2012. DA/BA now only requires water samples when minor rain events occur; meat samples are not typically required unless there is heavy rain or a serious bypass.
3. *Permits and Access:* Thornton – New permits are now available for sale.
4. *Commercial Shellfish Regulations:* Wakeman, Harold – No report presented this evening
5. *Oyster Bed Development:* Lanute, Thornton, Harold – No report presented this evening, however David Thornton reviewed a report by DA/BA of the Ye Olde Yacht Yard testing done in the dredge area.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Remediation of the Mill River Estuary associated with the former Exide Battery Site, 2190 Post Road, Fairfield, CT

Thomas J. Steinke discussed the procedural elements of Exide's application. There will be a public meeting in January, but depending on DEEP approval, that meeting may be continued. The Commissioners discussed a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission.

B. CT DEEP-OLISP, Application No. 200802577-TS, Zecchi, to retain and repair existing timber bulkhead at 1774 Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield

No discussion as the contractor's work barge has been sitting at the site tied to the bulkhead this month – table to the January meeting.

C. CT DEEP-OLISP Application #201206059-TS of Anthony Casola to replace existing bulkhead and installation of a floating dock, ramp, and access platform at 1871 Fairfield Beach Road

Thomas J. Steinke reviewed the previous proceedings with the commission and the proposed changes. The revisions indicate that most of the in-channel debris was removed by Hurricane Sandy and that there will be a 50 foot fairway since the opposite side of the creek is now shown on the plan, but a float owned by another property owner reduces that fairway to 40 feet in one part. The applicant still proposed to cut piling off at the mud line, which was not in conformance with Thomas J. Steinke's previous recommendations. Removing the pilings only at the mud line will create a hazard as the creek bottom is scoured by the ebb and flow of water.

The Commissioners discussed the requirement of a 50 foot fairway and its benefit to boating and preservation of the shellfish resources.

The Commissioners conducted a general discussion of commercial shellfish operations in Fairfield waters.

Thomas J. Steinke will contact DEEP to ascertain whether the float on the opposite side of the creek from the subject property is permitted.

Sally Harold *moved*, Cathy Raynor-Catropa *seconded* to endorse the application with conditions of maintaining a 50 foot fairway, not allowing a boat outside of the dock if less than a 50 foot fairway remains, and complete removal or driving of pilings below water level. *Motion passed unanimously.*

D. CT DEEP-OLISP COP #201206552-TS of Marianne Ruscito for bulkhead replacement at 1748 and 1754 Fairfield Beach Road

No discussion

E. 2013 Meeting Schedule and Officers

Sally Harold *moved*, Robert Bilek *seconded* to accept the 2013 meeting schedule as provided. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Cathy Raynor-Catropa *moved*, Sally Harold *seconded* to elect Sanford J. Wakeman as Chairman, Robert Bilek as Vice Chairman, and David Thornton as Secretary of the Fairfield Shellfish Commission. *Motion passed unanimously.*

E. Shellfish Commission 2013-2014 Budget Request

Robert Bilek briefly reviewed several line items in the budget proposal.

Robert Bilek *moved*, Sally Harold *seconded* to accept the budget as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2013 Recreational Shellfish Permits

No discussion

B. 2012 Guide to Shellfish, Along the Coast of Connecticut

Thomas J. Steinke reported that the existing document may be updated and that the Commissioners were asked for input. Further discussion will be held at the state wide meeting of Shellfish Commissioners.

IV. INFORMATIONAL

None

V. OTHER

None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Sally Harold *moved*, Robert Bilek *seconded* to adjourn at 8:55 PM. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Monelli