

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
SHELLFISH COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – April 10, 2013**

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a regular meeting on April 10, 2013 at 7:30 PM in the Second 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; Richard Ferrari; Paul Nelson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Cathy Raynor-Catropa

**ALSO PRESENT:** Thomas J. Steinke, Conservation Director; and past chairman Edward Crowley

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

**I. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Plaque presentation for Edward Crowley, former Shellfish Commissioner

A. Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2013

Robert Bilek *moved*, Sally Harold *seconded* to accept the minutes of March 13, 2013.  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Bilek, Thornton – Robert Bilek reported that water temperatures are too cold for a relay and plan on a May – June relay.
2. *Water and Habitat Quality:* Bilek, Wakeman, Harold, Raynor-Catropa – Robert Bilek reported that they have worked with the DA/BA to draft a MOU for opening shellfish beds on the weekends and holidays. Details still need to be worked out with the police and public works departments.
3. *Permits and Access:* Thornton – The commissioners discussed payment of expenses for permits, etc. from town appropriations or the shellfish fund.
4. *Commercial Shellfish Regulations:* Wakeman, Harold – No report presented this evening
5. *Oyster Bed Development:* Thornton, Harold – No report presented this evening

### C. Earthplace

Thomas J. Steinke described Earthplace of Westport's request for an endorsement of its grant proposal for conducting water quality monitoring and "track down " activities in the Fairfield and Westport sections of the Sacco Brook estuary for the purpose of restoring water quality for recreational shellfishing at Southport Beach. Earthplace's testing would cover areas beyond what the State DA/BA sanitary survey would cover. Funding is contingent on a grant and would come from the Long Island Futures Fund from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Sally Harold *moved*, Paul Nelson *seconded* to provide Earthplace with a letter of support for their grant application. *Motion passed unanimously.*

The commissioners held a general discussion of the pollution in that area of town and Sally Harold briefly described Earthplace's previous successful efforts in Norwalk.

## **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 reported that he is still waiting for the DEEP and Exide to schedule reviews, and that the town has filed its intervention. No further information has been received from DEEP and Exide. The commissioners discussed issues related to ex-parte communications in light of the fact that DEEP has been meeting with Exide.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

### A. CT DEEP-OLISP Application of Town of Fairfield DPW to install a 36" diameter sluice gate and 10 l.f. of 36" diameter ADS pipe at grade through existing earthen berm and wood bulkhead at 1177 Fairfield Beach Road

Thomas J. Steinke described the project as a flood relief valve and noted that it is adjacent to a similar structure between Fairfield Beach Road and Pine Creek. He reported it will not have any affect on, nor is it within, the tidal area of Pine Creek, and will not affect the shellfish resource or habitat in the Pine Creek Area. The proposal will allow drainage from the road to the creek to relieve flooding on Fairfield Beach Road. He recommends endorsement of the proposal.

Robert Bilek *moved*, Sally Harold *seconded* to endorse the proposal as presented and so advise the applicant. *Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **IV. INFORMATIONAL**

The commissioners held a general discussion of the budget and a review of the Shellfish Management Plan for the next agenda.

#### **V. OTHER**

None

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, David Thornton *moved*, Robert Bilek *seconded* to adjourn at 8:45 PM. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony Monelli