

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – June 12, 2013**

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a regular meeting on June 12, 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; Richard Ferrari; Cathy Raynor-Catropa

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sally Harold, Paul Nelson

ALSO PRESENT: Annette Jacobson, Conservation Department; James Salce

CALL TO ORDER: Sanford J. Wakeman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

I. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2013

Richard Ferrari *moved*, Cathy Raynor-Catropa *seconded* to accept the minutes of May 8, 2013. *Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Bilek, Thornton – Robert Bilek reported on the activities of the relay. There were more hard clams harvested from James Salce’s commercial bed off Southport Harbor and planted during the May 28 and May 30, 2013 relay to Sasco Hill Beach recreational bed than the 21,000 clams originally estimated. About 24,000 hard clams were planted at a cost of approximately \$2,800, which is still within the amount approved for this project. A relay of hard clams from Fairfield’s own natural beds off Southport Beach to the recreational bed off Sasco Hill Beach will be planned for this fall.

David Thornton commented on his experience on James Salce’s boat during the harvest. He is working on a public service announcement with Richard Ferrari to cover the clam relay and a future event called a “Clam Dig.”

Richard Ferrari discussed some elements of the “Clam Dig” event, and announced it is planned for July 27 with a rain date of July 28. He will make a more detailed report at the July 10, 2013 meeting.

2. *Water and Habitat Quality:* Bilek, Wakeman, Harold, Raynor-Catropa – Due to several rain events, the shellfish beds remain closed.

3. *Permits and Access:* Thornton – James Salce, a commercial fisherman, was recognized from the floor. He requested that the Fairfield Shellfish Commission send a letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission encouraging a change in policy that would allow commercial shellfishermen to offload their harvest at the back working dock in South Benson Marina. This might only be allowed during the work week and not on weekends, and probably would have some sort of time limit at the dock imposed. Robert Bilek discussed drafting a letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration. It would support commercial shellfishermen being able to unload at the South Benson Marina. This is consistent with the Shellfish Commission's mission to enhance recreational and commercial shellfishing in our waters.

Robert Bilek *moved*, Richard Ferrari *seconded* a motion asking David Thornton to draft a letter to Dante Gallucci, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission, requesting they support the concept that commercial shellfishermen who work our waters could unload their harvest at South Benson Marina. Motion passed unanimously.

4. *Commercial Shellfish Regulations:* Wakeman, Harold – No report presented this evening
5. *Oyster Bed Development:* Thornton, Harold – No report presented this evening

II. OLD BUSINESS

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

Robert Bilek encouraged the commissioners to review the handouts developed from many hours of meetings with DEEP and Exide. He reported that revisions to the SEDRAP should be issued by the beginning of July. The Shellfish Commission will have a short time to review the changes, and will attempt to answer all questions in detail at the July 10, 2013 meeting. Robert Bilek expressed concern that the town commissions need to arrive at a consensus regarding the remediation process soon so Exide can start the clean-up process.

Annette Jacobson inquired as to the location of stations to monitor turbidity outside the silt curtains. Robert Bilek responded that the proposal is to locate two monitoring stations upstream and two downstream from the silt curtain in order to account for the tide moving material around.

B. CT DEEP Application #2012-06527-TS - 1907 Fairfield Beach Road, LLC, Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve Structures, Dredging and Fill and Tidal Wetlands, and Intent to Waive Public Hearing, Replace Existing Bulkhead and Install Dock at 1907 Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield

Annette Jacobson reviewed the project and Thomas J. Steinke's concerns about maintaining the 50 foot fairway. Annette Jacobson reported that John Hilts, the applicant's consultant, recommends restricting any vessel docking at the property to 8 feet in width in order to maintain the fairway. This restriction should be included in DEEP's permit, which will be filed on the land records in order to make the restriction permanent. Thomas J. Steinke responded that he would recommend to the Shellfish Commission that he would endorse the permit with the condition that any vessels with a beam greater than 8 feet wide be prohibited from docking at the property.

Robert Bilek *moved*, Richard Ferrari *seconded* to endorse the permit with the condition that any vessels with a beam greater than 8 feet wide be prohibited from docking at the property. *Motion passed unanimously.*

C. CT DEEP Application #2012-06536-TS - David Cohen, LLC, Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve Structures, Dredging and Fill Application, Replace Existing Bulkhead and Install Dock at 1921 Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield

Annette Jacobson reviewed the project and Thomas J. Steinke's concerns about maintaining the 50 foot fairway. Annette Jacobson reported that John Hilts, the applicant's consultant, recommends restricting any vessel docking at the property to 8 feet in width in order to maintain the fairway. This restriction should be included in DEEP's permit, which will be filed on the land records in order to make the restriction permanent. Thomas J. Steinke responded that he would recommend to the Shellfish Commission that he would endorse the permit with the condition that any vessels with a beam greater than 8 feet wide be prohibited from docking at the property.

Robert Bilek *moved*, Richard Ferrari *seconded* to endorse the permit with the condition that any vessels with a beam greater than 8 feet wide be prohibited from docking at the property. *Motion passed unanimously.*

C. Shellfish Commission Management Plan

No discussion

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Addendum to the Shellfish Memorandum of Understanding with respect to reopening of recreational shellfish beds on weekends and holidays

Robert Bilek discussed his efforts to allow the recreational shellfish beds to reopen on weekends and holidays. He has found that other town departments are unable to coordinate shellfish bed reopening on such days. However, he is now looking into the possibility of having the Chairman and Vice Chairman be notified of a re-opening on a weekend or holiday. They could contact the Police Department to have the sign changed at Sasco Hill Beach and could change in recording for the information line in order to have shellfish beds reopened in advance of the following workday.

IV. INFORMATIONAL

Robert Bilek briefly discussed the Shellfish Fund balance, and noted that the balance shown did not yet reflect the expense for the clam relay.

V. OTHER

None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, David Thornton *moved*, Cathy Raynor-Catropa *seconded* to adjourn at 8:32 PM. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Monelli