

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – October 9, 2013**

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a regular meeting on October 9, 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; Paul Nelson; Cathy Raynor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Ferrari, Sally Harold

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas J. Steinke, Conservation Director; Christopher Drake, Nautilus Consulting

CALL TO ORDER: Sanford J. Wakeman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM

I. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2013

Robert Bilek *moved*, David Thornton *seconded* to accept the minutes of September 11, 2013. *Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Bilek, Thornton – Robert Bilek noted that he and David Thornton plan to meet with Jim Salce at the end of the month. They plan to set up either a relay from the natural bed or a plant at some time in November. They plan to keep costs to a minimum. Robert Bilek also discussed the need to determine the viability of natural beds and the ability to relay into the recreational beds. Thomas J. Steinke noted that the waters are sufficiently warm in November and the beginning of December to allow a relay.
2. *Water and Habitat Quality:* Bilek, Wakeman, Harold, Raynor – Sanford J. Wakeman noted that the recreational beds have been open.
3. *Permits and Access:* Thornton – The commissioners discussed the increasing age demographics relative to recreational permit holders.
4. *Commercial Shellfish Regulations:* Wakeman, Harold – No report
5. *Oyster Bed Development:* Thornton, Harold – No report

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Remediation of the Mill River Estuary associated with the former Exide Battery Site, 2190 Post Road, Fairfield, CT: Discussion regarding mitigation measures by Exide; and overall status

Thomas J. Steinke reported that Exide requested and received from DEEP a 45 day time extension for the submission of its remediation plan. Thomas J. Steinke discussed the elements of the final approvals and that Exide is selecting a contractor, with initial work to begin in the Spring of 2014.

B. Shellfish Commission Management Plan

Paul Nelson reported that he has begun review of the plan.

C. Letter to Parks and Recreation Commission regarding commercial shellfishermen access to a town dock for off-loading harvested shellfish

Thomas J. Steinke reported that a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission has met several times and is reviewing the Shellfish Commission's request. Sanford J. Wakeman and Robert Bilek attended the last meeting. The commissioners discussed possible locations for off-loading, and the need to improve the structural integrity of the Southport Harbor dock.

D. CT DEEP-OLISP structures, dredging and fill permit application no. 201206291-TS, of the Town of Fairfield Public Works Department and Engineering Department to conduct maintenance dredging of navigational channel to South Benson Marina and Ash Creek

Thomas J. Steinke reviewed his previous recommendation that no adverse shellfish impact would occur as a result of the project, but that monitoring of the movement of the barrier beach should occur. The monitoring of the size and shape of the barrier beach is needed to protect all the shellfish resources behind it.

Christopher Drake of Nautilus Consulting, the Town of Fairfield's representative on the project, described the scope and specifics of the project as proposed, including the dredging process. He noted that surveys could be done as part of the project.

The commissioners also discussed the location of the municipal boundaries. Thomas J. Steinke noted that a portion of the barrier beach has extended beyond the boundary between Bridgeport and Fairfield, into Fairfield. Thomas J. Steinke described the growth of the barrier beach, and how the sand has moved over time. Ash Creek is a very productive shellfish resource.

Thomas J. Steinke reiterated his concerns over the shifting of the inlet and the need to monitor the shellfish resource.

The commissioners and Christopher Drake discussed various recommendations made to monitor the sand spit.

Robert Bilek *moved*, David Thornton *seconded* to endorse the proposal as presented and recommends that the sandspit area be surveyed before and after each subsequent dredging during the term of this ten year permit. *Motion passed unanimously.*

E. CT Sea Grant - Request for Input - Participation in development of State of Connecticut Shellfish Management Plan

Sanford J. Wakeman, Robert Bilek, and Thomas J. Steinke all attended the meeting on the state shellfish management plan having to do with habitat restoration.

Robert Bilek and Sanford J. Wakeman will contact Norman Bloom to see if our shellfish habitat can be restored by use of an oyster dredge to scrape shells off of the surface.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2014 Shellfish Permits - Review Fee Schedule

Thomas J. Steinke advised the commissioners of the procedure for changing the fee structure and the relationship of the fee structure to the availability of permits.

Robert Bilek *moved*, Cathy Raynor *seconded* to maintain the current fee schedule for the next fiscal year. *Motion passed unanimously.*

IV. INFORMATIONAL

A. The NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Open House will be held on October 19, 2013 in Milford. Robert Bilek noted that he and Sanford Wakeman will attend, and Cathy Raynor also agreed to attend.

V. OTHER

None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, David Thornton *moved*, Paul Nelson *seconded* to adjourn at 9:10 PM. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Monelli