

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
SHELLFISH COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – November 13, 2013**

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a regular meeting on November 13, 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; Sally Harold; Paul Nelson; Cathy Raynor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jim 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 October 9, 2013

Sally Harold *moved*, Richard Ferrari *seconded* to accept the minutes of October 9, 2013.  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Bilek, Thornton – Robert Bilek reported that the commission received a scientific resource assessment license from DA/BA. Robert Bilek, Sanford J. Wakeman, and two representatives from DA/BA surveyed the Sasco Beach recreational clam bed using one of Norm Bloom's oyster boats to see if oyster shells and other debris could be removed from the surface of the bed to enhance clamming. They found some oyster shell and a lot of Slipper Snails. They also surveyed Mill River in the open area above the north anchorage for an area to place cultch to enhance oyster growth. They found some cultch with a few oysters, but it was a very muddy bottom and the oysters were long and thin from reaching for the surface. They plan an upcoming survey of the natural beds, with Jim Salce assisting. Richard Ferrari and Paul Nelson expressed interest in attending. Robert Bilek will coordinate with DA/BA and Jim Salce.
2. *Water and Habitat Quality:* Bilek, Wakeman, Harold, Raynor – Sanford J. Wakeman noted that the recreational beds have been open and have not been affected by rain.
3. *Permits and Access:* Thornton – The commissioners discussed the statistics and will request year-to-date counts by category on a monthly basis.

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO REVIEW, CORRECTION AND APPROVAL BY  
THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

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 - project status

No updates available

### B. Shellfish Commission Management Plan

Paul Nelson reviewed the plan and noted that he could not identify and substantial changes that need to be made. Paul Nelson and Sally Harold discussed the issue of moorings off Fairfield Beach. Anchors and vessel discharge were the main impacts on shellfish. Robert Bilek noted there is a need to identify viable natural clam beds and protect them. Sanford J. Wakeman noted that the regulations should be amended to prohibit anchoring in certain areas. Paul Nelson also noted that it might be beneficial to have rules on relays.

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

Robert Bilek reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission has begun to issue new regulations regarding commercial boats using town marinas. Jim Salce referenced an Army Corps of Engineer document and also noted that some other towns allow commercial boats to use municipal docks for offloading catch. Ye Olde Yacht Yard was discussed as a possibility, but the primary dock needs some work and even then it is very steep at a really low tide for offloading.

### 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

No discussion.

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

The commissioners noted that there was a complex list of issues and conducted a general discussion of topics. There is a need to focus on some doable items.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Educational Outreach to Fairfield Students regarding Shellfishing in Fairfield

David Thornton worked with a teacher at Andrew Warde high school and arranged a clamming trip in Recreational Area A at Sasco. The students did not find any clams but were interested in the process. David Thornton advocated more programs with students.

#### B. Nominating Committee for Election of Officers for December Vote

Sanford J. Wakeman solicited volunteers for a nominating committee. Richard Ferrari and Cathy Raynor volunteered and Sanford J. Wakeman appointed them.

#### C. Draft 2014 Meeting Schedule for December Vote

The commissioners arrived at a consensus for the schedule as presented.

#### D. 2014-2015 Shellfish Commission Budget - Review and Discussion on upcoming Shellfish Commission Budget Request

Robert Bilek commented that the commission should dedicate funds to microbial source testing for fecal coliform. If the specific source can be clearly identified (eg: human), then we might be able to investigate further and locate the point of origin (eg: septic tank leaking). The water quality and habitat committee should study this testing and make a report to the shellfish commission before the budget deadline. Cathy Raynor commented that the shoreline survey was to be done in Fairfield after Westport. Robert Bilek noted that he would discuss timing with DA/BA.

Robert Bilek *moved*, Richard Ferrari *seconded* that water quality and habitat committee should study this testing and make a report to the shellfish commission before the budget deadline. *Motion passed unanimously.*

#### E. DEEP/OLISP COP Application by Exide to do work on (make repairs to) the Tide Mill Dam and flood gates located in the Mill Rover, Fairfield, CT

The commissioners discussed repairs to the dam. DEEP has not yet made a decision, but that is expected soon. If approved, the work will likely start by next spring or even sooner.

#### **IV. INFORMATIONAL**

- A. The NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Open House - The event was cancelled due to the government shut down.
- B. 12th Annual Ronald C. Baird Seat Grant Science Symposium - The commissioners noted that the timing was not convenient
- C. Microbial (Fecal Coliform) Source Testing - Discussed under III. D.
- D. 2013-2014 Shellfish Budget Status - Discussed under III. D.
- E. Shellfish Fund Balance - Report noted
- F. License Permits Issued through October 31, 2013 - Discussed under I. B. 3.
- G. Phone calls for status of open or closed - October 2013 - Report noted

#### **V. OTHER**

None

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

None

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony Monelli