

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – December 11, 2013**

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a regular meeting on December 11, 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 (outgoing as Chairman, incoming as Vice Chairman); Robert Bilek, Vice Chairman (outgoing as Vice Chairman, incoming as Chairman); David Thornton, Secretary (outgoing as Secretary); Richard Ferrari; Paul Nelson; Cathy Raynor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sally Harold (incoming as Secretary)

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas J. Steinke, Conservation Director

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

I. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2013

Robert Bilek reported a typographical error in the minutes. The second and third sentences of Section I, Subsection B, Item 1 (Clam Relay/Planting Committee Report) should be stricken, and “Robert Bilek,” should be added to the fourth sentence.

Paul Nelson *moved*, David Thornton *seconded* to approve the minutes of November 13, 2013 with corrections as indicated by Robert Bilek. *Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Bilek, Thornton – Robert Bilek reported that the committee conducted a survey of the natural beds in the shellfish management area and looked for locations from which to relay clams to recreational beds. They worked cooperatively with DA/BA and Jim Salce. Robert Bilek described the locations and methods employed, and noted there were clams found in the Southport outer harbor. They had greater success off of Jennings and Penfield Beach and found productive locations from which to relay. He described the types and sizes of the clams found. Robert Bilek discussed a relay in the spring, along with employing an oyster boat to clean the recreational beds first, and that it would be more cost efficient to employ Jim Salce to assist in the relay rather than purchase clams. The commissioners discussed generally the habitat in the Southport Harbor area, the productivity of the town beds, and the aquaculture school in Bridgeport.

2. *Water and Habitat Quality*: Bilek, Wakeman, Harold, Raynor – Sanford J. Wakeman reported that the Pine Creek dredge project is under way and dredged material will be disposed in the town dump area.

Robert Bilek reported that he and Sanford Wakeman attended the Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee meeting. There were several “hot spots” coming from areas near the Post Road. The commissioners discussed the history and location of fecal coliform pollution in the area and discussed formulating a long range plan, including DNA and dye testing, to address the pollution in order to get the Southport clamming area open. Robert Bilek noted that he spoke with DA/BA and that agency should be conducting the shoreline survey of Fairfield in 2014.

3. *Permits and Access*: Thornton – The commissioners discussed the need to change the town website listing incorrect locations where shellfishermen could obtain permits.
4. *Commercial Shellfish Regulations*: Wakeman, Harold – No report
5. *Oyster Bed Development*: Thornton, Harold – No report

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Report of Election Committee

Richard Ferrari reported that Robert Bilek volunteered to stand for election as Chairman, Sanford J. Wakeman as Vice Chairman, and Sally Harold as Secretary.

B. Election of Officers

Cathy Raynor *moved*, David Thornton *seconded* to elect Robert Bilek as Chairman, Sanford J. Wakeman as Vice Chairman, and Sally Harold as Secretary. *Motion passed unanimously.*

At this point, Robert Bilek chaired the meeting.

C. Vote on 2014 Meeting Schedule

David Thornton *moved*, Cathy Raynor *seconded* to accept the 2014 meeting schedule as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

D. 2014-2015 Shellfish Commission Budget Request

Robert Bilek reviewed the budget request and noted it was similar to the budget for the current fiscal year, with an additional \$3,000 for fecal coliform testing for Southport Beach.

Cathy Raynor *moved*, Richard Ferrari *seconded* to endorse the 2014-2015 budget request as presented. *Motion passed unanimously.*

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

Thomas J. Steinke reported that the DEEP approved and they are awaiting the commissioner's public notice of the approval. Robert Bilek reported discussions were held between Exide and the owner of the Tide Mill Dam and that there may be preliminary results, including Exide replacing the tide gates.

F. Shellfish Commission Management Plan

Paul Nelson will present a report at the January meeting

G. 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 reported that DEEP has approved the proposal. He noted that is a 10 year permit and the dredging may occur at any time during that period, whenever the need arises.

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

Thomas J. Steinke reported that the CT Sea Grant will be presenting its findings on public input at the January gathering of shellfish commissioners in New Haven.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vote on 2014 Recreational Shellfish Permit Fee Schedule

The commissioners reviewed the fee schedule and arrived at a consensus.

Cathy Raynor *moved*, Richard Ferrari *seconded* to accept the fee schedule as presented.
Motion passed unanimously.

B. CT DEEP-OLISP Application No. 201303783-TS of Susan Page Snow for the installation of a dock at 1722 Fairfield Beach Road

The commission has previously commented on the proposal and DEEP has publicly noticed it for a tentative determination. The commissioners discussed the importance of maintaining the 50 foot right of way in the creek, which was incorporated into the proposal to DEEP. Thomas J. Steinke explained how the permit runs with the property to successive owners.

Cathy Raynor *moved*, Richard Ferrari *seconded* to endorse the proposal as presented.
Motion passed unanimously.

C. CT DEEP-OLISP COP No. 201303985-TS issued to William R. Pettitte, to conduct work (retain, replace, and modify, in-place, and existing dock) in Pine Creek, off property located at 235 Old Dam Road

This item is for informational purposes and no action is required.

IV. INFORMATIONAL

A. State of CT DA/BA marina dilution calculation procedures

Thomas J. Steinke explained the calculation procedures and that they prevent too much untreated sanitary waste from being discharged from vessels.

B. DEEP Public notice of intent to initiate triennial review of Connecticut water quality standards

C. 34th Milford Aquaculture Seminar

D. 2013-2014 budget status

- E. Shellfish fund balance
- F. License permits issued through November 30, 2013
- G. Phone calls for status of open or closed - November 2013
- H. Town of Westport December 4, 2014 meeting agenda, together with draft October 2, 2013 meeting minutes

The commissioners noted the Westport agenda and that Westport issued over 700 shellfish permits.

V. OTHER

None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Richard Ferrari *moved*, David Thornton *seconded* to adjourn at 8:35 PM. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Monelli