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City of Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee Meeting December 3, 2020 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 6:03 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members: Joe Schnierlein, Pete Johnson, Steve Bartush, John Romano, Dick Harris, Geoff Steadman, Diane Lauricella, Louise Washer, John Crespo, Jim Bartley

Staff: Thomas Closter

Guests: None

MEETING HELD BY ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion to Approve by Steve Bartush, second by Dick Harris. Unanimous Vote.

DISCUSSION

- 1) Chairman Schnierlein said there has been no communication with Eversource and their plans for the transmission line relocation project. Committee members are still very concerned about the path and method. Dredging has not started.
- 2) Chairman Schnierlein discussed the data received from the Department of Transportation for water quality monitoring. Data is good data as a comparison for the whole year. Geoff Steadman stated that the data should be related to events that increase turbidity like rainfall, tide, wind and bridge openings. Professor Hart will analyze the data.
- 3) Chairman Schnierlein talked about the possibility of waterfront buffer zones. Louise Washer said that the Redevelopment Agency has discussed the idea of putting a bike/walk path along the river below Wall St to connect to the Norwalk Rivershed Valley Trail. Geoff Steadman and John Romano talked about plans to improve storm water management and future requirements to capture storm water to keep from migrating into the river. Diane Lauricella said there was discussion under the Plan of Conservation and Development regarding the use of green infrastructure and increasing the use. She also said the City has hired a Consultant to help Planning & Zoning look at the Zoning regulations and an industrial study is taking place and this will help improve environmental management.
- 4) Members discussed concerns regarding the water quality data gathered each summer by hired interns. When and how is the data received and how is the data being used. The Mayor's Water Quality Committee, the Harbor Commission and the Shellfish Commission need to have access to the data in real time and any red flags need to be reported in a timelier manner so they can be addressed. Geoff Steadman said we

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need more information about the purpose of the program, what they use the data for and what are the goals.

- 5) Chairman Schnierlein talked about the First Taxing District Water Department and muddy water issues for the last three weeks. He talked with Anthony Franceschini, who is in charge of delivery, and he stated that they have not been able to find the cause. There have not been a lot of calls or complaints so they don't know how big the issue is. People should let the water run until the water becomes clear. They have flushed the pipes recently.
- 6) Geoff Steadman stated he has concerns about the Norwalk Watershed Initiative and would like to see quarterly meetings started again.
- 7) Louise Washer talked about the Regional Conservation Partnership and their Geographic Information System mapping to identify the land that is most valuable to conserve and strategies moving forward. Common Council representative and member of the Norwalk Land Trust, Lisa Shanahan, is involved with how to use these maps to better understand the conservation issues facing our city. The City of Norwalk utilizes the System and layers include health indicators, flood zones, air quality, tree canopy, fire hydrants, parks, ecology, etc. Chairman Schnierlein said a beneficial layer would be public access ways.
- 8) Dick Harris took water samples at Oyster Shell Park and found no issues.
- 9) Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 6:00pm (Zoom)

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jim Bartley, second by Pete Johnson 7:02pm
Minutes by Thomas Closter