

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chairman; Steve Bartush, John Crespo, Diane Lauricella
Geoff Steadman

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department; Sam Marquand, of Save the Sound,

This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called. A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS:

• **DEEP** – No report.

• **Dept. of Aquaculture** – Mr. Bartush said that he had heard that they were scheduling the annual meeting around the 3rd week in January.

• **Dept. of Health** – Bill or Dept. of Health Rep.—Mr. Mooney said that the reservoir was still below normal. Mr. Schnierlein asked if there was any discussion

• **Harbor Commission** –Geoff or John – On November 16th, Mr. Steadman said there was a joint meeting of the Shellfish Commission and the Harbor Commission with Eversource about the proposed route of the electrical lines through Veterans Park. The line will go under the river and beneath the visitor's dock. He said that the property owner on the west side would not allow Eversource to trench through his property. The current proposal is going to the full Common Council and they are working on obtaining the various approvals they need. He said that the Harbor Commission had informed the Common Council via a letter that the Harbor Commission would be reviewing the application and gave the details of that.

Mr. Schnierlein said that they had received a report about the drilling that would take place on the river bed, but there was no mention of the heat that would actually be generated by the lines and this could in turn raise the temperature in the river and affect the migratory fish.

Ms. Lauricella said that the Economic and Community Development Committee would be reviewing the plan for the industrial waterfront zone proposal. It goes before the full Council at their next meeting.

Mr. Steadman said that this issue was very significant for the Harbor Commission and gave the details. He said that it may change the Plan of Conservation and Development along with other changes. Discussion followed about the details. Mr. Steadman said that he would check with Dr. Pinto regarding the timeline and the process.

• **Planning and Zoning** – No report.

Old Business –

1) MS 4 suggestions from Diane –

Ms. Lauricella said that her computer was down most of the day and she was not able to send out the MS4 document. One of the main thrusts was the public participation on and suggested that the City have a round table summit regarding updating the MS4 document every year.

2) Wilson Point Cove testing Bill and/or Dick – Mr. Mooney said they had not done any testing since the colder weather set in.

Ms. Lauricella asked if additional funding was being requested to expand the testing and analysis. Mr. Mooney said that the funding was being used for the interns' salaries.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had spoken with a Council Member who was concerned about water quality. He explained that there was no way to do the water testing in Norwalk and DEEP lab is swamped. He said that he had made the Council Member aware of this need and suggested that the testing be done somewhere in southwest Connecticut. Discussion followed.

3) CT DEEP Consent Decree May 5th 2022 for past Violations (Discussion item).
What we know and what we don't know. All of us.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had not heard any new information. Ms. Lauricella said that since the budget was being created, it would be good to find out if something had been included for the consent decree.

4) PFAS in proposed turf near water supply and Rec. and Parks meeting. Also,
tree coverage for Norwalk and lack of open space.

Mr. Schnierlein said that there had been some testing done on the water and the samples have been sent out for analysis. Mr. Schnierlein said that he had asked Mr. Stone, the new Parks and

Rec Director, about the benefits of playing and potentially breathing in Astro turf as opposed to playing on a grass field. Ms. Lauricella said that Mr. Stone was not a chemist, but he felt that he could handle the pros and cons. However, Ms. Lauricella said that she felt that a neutral party should be doing the recommendations. It is not enough to have the company that makes the artificial turf to make recommendations, particularly since the City will be making an investment of over \$1 million dollars. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Save the Sound Report card. Everyone. Please read. This was sent to you earlier.

Mr. Sam Marquand, of Save the Sound, greeted the Committee members. Mr. Schnierlein said that he had invited the Save the Sound group to participate in the meeting. He said that the analysis was done by scientists who were not out in the field taking the samples. Some of changes in the data occurred due to climate change or migrating fish. However, this is not communicated in the report. Reports cards are something that are done by humans, but the changes noted may not be caused by humans. Discussion followed.

Wall St. Corridor and StS report. – Diane

Ms. Lauricella said that she had heard about the plans for rejuvenating the Wall Street area including the transportation and parking. She mentioned a team from Stamford who had already re-invigorated other parts of the Wall Street area. She said that there were about five main topics, but they had not included anything about water quality. She suggested that they have a joint meeting so that TMV might be able to hear some suggestions about cleaning, and slowing down and

2) PFAS in proposed turf near water supply and Rec. and Parks meeting. Also, tree coverage for Norwalk and lack of open space. Diane, Dick or Joe

To be continued. Mr. Schnierlein said that the Committee should send their recommendations to him to add to the list.

3) Recommendations to move forward to the Council and other community leaders. Let's target getting it out by Mid-January.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Schnierlein asked Mr. Marquand if he was still on the call. Mr. Marquand said that he was. Mr. Schnierlein asked Mr. Marquand if he was aware of the severe drought that the City had gone through. Mr. Marquand said that it was mentioned in the notes but he would take the information back to the group.

There was no other member of the public that wished to comment at this time.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• Nov. 3, 2022.

Mr. Mooney noted that the date on the header was incorrect. It will be changed.

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2022 MEETING AS AMENDED.**

**** MR. CRESPO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next meeting is Jan. 5, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. Schnierlein adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services