

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chair; Steve Bartush, Dick Harris, Pete Johnson, Diane Lauricella, John Romano, Chris Malik, Louise Washer

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He said Mr. Steadman was not able to attend the meeting.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called. A quorum was present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR JIM BARTLEY

The Committee Members then observed a moment of silence for Mr. Bartley who passed away recently.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Louise Washer – Watershed Initiative

Ms. Washer said that through the H2H organization and another Redding organization, Norwalk will be given a National Fish and Wildlife \$15,000 grant for planting trees at Woodward Park and Oyster Shell Park along with ten additional street trees. There will also be funding for shrubs along an inlet and allocations for both the Fodor Farm Tree Alliance and the Land Trust for education.

Ms. Washer left the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

• DEEP – Chris

Mr. Malik spoke about the fact that DEEP was now accepting applications for non-point source pollution mitigation proposals. The Norwalk River area is a high priority.

Ms. Lauricella had a question about a particular tract of land north of Perry Avenue that the ACOE had not issued a favorable report. She said that she would speak with Mr. Malik off line.

- **Dept. of Transportation via Shellfish or Harbor Comm.** – No report.

- **Harbor Commission** – Eversource Communication of plan – Geoff Steadman.

No report

- **Dept. of Aquaculture** – Mr. Bartush said that Kristin had accepted a job with the FDA.

- **Dept. of Health** – Dye testing

Mr. Mooney said that the testing started on October 8th and went through the 14th. There has not been anything found. There remains three more tests to be done on Wilson Point.

- **Harbor Commission** – Eversource communication of plan – Geoff or John

Mr. Romano said that they were hearing that Eversource had applied to the DOT, but did not know what the application included,

- **Planning and Zoning**

Mr. Romano said that he had concerns that there had been agreements to put apartment on the waterward areas that were designated to be water dependent areas.

Ms. Lauricella said that the activated map from the consultants would remain active through the end of the month. Individuals can submit comments on individual parcels.

Mr. Romano said that Dr. Pinto would be representing the Harbor Commission on the consultant and Mr. Bartush would be representing the Shellfish Commission. He noted that Mr. Steadman, who was the consultant, had been left out.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Recommendations for commissions and City Hall emailed out.

Mr. Schnierlein said that the recommendations were sent out to the various department before the elections, and the independent parties.

2. Letter from Miami Dade requesting addresses. – former student.

Mr. Schnierlein followed up on the Miami Dade inquiry and found out that it was from a former student, who is now involved with Miami Dade conservation. The former student was attempting to contact Mr. Schnierlein about the recent issues since Miami Dade is experiencing many of the same issues i that Norwalk is currently addressing.

NEW BUSINESS Cont'd

- **Diane Lauricella – permits, etc.**

Ms. Lauricella said that after Ms. Jones had brought her concerns about permitting was needed in private HOA areas. She said that she was able to obtain a copy of the permit regulations and there was a permit filed by Wilson Point Home Owners in 2015. She then reviewed the details with the Committee members. Ms. Lauricella said that she was surprised that the HOA was so insistent that they did not need a permit. She noted that the Yacht Club has to file for a permit.

Ms. Lauricella said that concerned citizens don't have to a water sample if they have concerns that they wish to bring to the Water Quality Committee. Discussion followed about the COP permit and whether it covered the storm water discharge.

- **Dick Harris – mitten crabs in Saugatuck**

Mr. Harris said that there was a mitten crab found in Westport, in Dead Man's Brook. It was a female. There have been crabs found in the Mianus River and other locations. None have been found in Norwalk Harbor.

- **Filling Jim Bartley's seat**

Mr. Schnierlein said that Ms. Washer had suggested possibly contacting the Land Trust for a potential candidate. He said that they could consider a person who was involved in the Shellfish industries. Mr. Schnierlein suggested that they look for a young candidate. Discussion followed.

- **Anything else?**

**** MR. BARTUSH MOVED TO HAVE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS BE SUBMITTED TO NANCY ON NORWALK FOR POSSIBLE PUBLICATION.**

Ms. Lauricella requested that there be a section included on the Agenda for the Conservation Commission, the Water Pollution Control Authority, Council Health and Safety Planning Committee and the Zoning Commission. She suggested that the various committees be contacted to let them know about the Water Quality Advisory Committee's concerns.

Mr. Romano said that the Harbor Management Commission had been working on raising awareness with Council Members and Planning and Zoning Commission so they are more knowledgeable about what a working harbor is about.

**** MR. JOHNSON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED.**

Mr. Romano suggested that the information be sent to Nancy on Norwalk and the local newspapers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one who wished to address the Committee at this time.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• September 2, 2021

**** MR. SCHNIERLIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

• October 7, 2021

**** MR. SCHNIERLIEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2021.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2021 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

• Next meeting tentatively Dec. 2, 2021

Mr. Schnierlein said that he would not be able to attend the December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. JOHNSON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services.