

Mayor's Water Quality Committee Agenda
For Nov. 3, 2022

a) **Call to order:**

b) Roll call: Steve Bartush: Bill Mooney, John Crespo, Diane Lauricella, Dick Harris, Harry Rilling, Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer

c) **Communications:**

DEEP

Dept. of Aquaculture – Steve

Dept. of Health – Bill or Dept. of Health Rep.

Harbor Commission –Geoff or John

Planning and Zoning –

d) **Old Business –**

1) MS 4 suggestions from Diane

2) Wilson Point Cove testing and closures Bill and/or Dick

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

e) **New Business**

1) 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

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

f) **Public Comments**

g) **Reading and approval of minutes** from Oct. 6, 2022. See below

h) Next meeting is Dec, 1, 2022 or Jan. 5, 2023.

i) **Adjournment.**

CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2022

Joe Schnierlein, Chairman; Steve Bartush, John Crespo, Diane Lauricella, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer

William Mooney, Health Department

CALL TO ORDER

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

A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL COMMUNICATIONS:

- DEEP – No report.
- Dept. of Aquaculture – No report.
- Dept. of Health – Mr. Mooney said that the Mayor's Water Emergency would be starting on October 7, 2022. The police will be enforcing the emergency measures and there will be a \$90.00 fine. Discussion followed about the Taxing Districts' role when there is a drought emergency and what reservoir percentage would trigger this.
- Harbor Commission – Mr. Steadman said that they had not heard anything from the ACOE.
- Planning and Zoning – Ms. Lauricella said that at 7 p.m. there would be a P&Z continuation of the Public Hearing about the industrial zones that would include Village Creek. A brief discussion followed the parcels that were included and those that were not.

OLD BUSINESS

1) MS 4 and going forward- Diane

Ms. Lauricella said that regarding the MS 4, it was an important part of the City's Water Quality. She said that she had not received any comments and was preparing some comments. She said that she would be focused on public participation. There is an interim Public Works Director and

Ms. Lauricella said that she felt the new Interim Director would be open to public participation. She said that they needed to work on clarifying how the public would file a complaint.

Ms. Lauricella then spoke about a four part video by UConn CLEAR, an educational program, which focused on storm water utility and the work that was done in Dover, New Hampshire. She said that she would be sending the Committee members the links to the four part video series.

Storm water utility is just one of the many mechanisms used to raise funds to use to repair the infrastructure. Ms. Lauricella said that this could be a way to fund the needed repairs required by the consent decree. Discussion followed.

Mr. Steadman suggested that the Harbor Commission might be a good platform to present the information about storm water and review it for consistency with the Harbor Management Plan. He said that he would bring it to the Application Review Committee.

Discussion followed about the areas covered by the industrial zones and the information contained on the website.

Mr. Crespo said that he felt Mr. Steadman's idea was very good.

Ms. Washer said that she had seen the UConn CLEAR program. She said that Norwalk had discussed creating a storm water utility program in the past and the UConn PUSH program would be good for the Advisory to participate in. It would make total sense for the City and she recommended that the Committee present this to the Mayor's Office. She said that she would draft a letter and send it to the Committee members.

2) Wilson Point Cove testing and beach closures Bill and/or Dick – Mr. Mooney said that the last testing was done on August 31st. The test samples were all clean.

Mr. Schnierlein said that Mr. Harris had contacted him about the crabs that they had been tracking and now samples have been found all the way down to the Mianus River. They will watch and see what effect the winter weather has on this crab population.

3) CTDEEP Consent Decree May 5th 2022 for past Violations

(Discussion item). What we know and what we don't know. All of us.

A discussion followed about a recent meeting between Mr. Harris and Ralph Cole regarding the water quality. Ms. Washer suggested a meeting where the Water Quality would discuss all the things that the City is doing with Mr. Cole. She hoped it could happen in the new year.

Mr. Schnierlein said that Mr. Steadman had taken the lead on this project and was trying to contact the leader of Harbor Watch for a conversation. He said it was upsetting that the Save the Sound was provided with more information than the Water Quality Committee. Save the Sound

was among the first to receive the information about the Harbor's rankings before the Water Quality Committee was.

Ms. Lauricella said that she had been doing her own research on this issue and agreed with Ms. Washer that the City was taking many steps to improve water quality. Having a public meeting to explain this would be important. However, Ms. Lauricella said that she was hoping to have a dialog with the WPCA about including the Water Quality Committee as part of the group when issues arise.

NEW BUSINESS

1) PFAS in proposed turf near water supply.

Mr. Schnierlein said that Ms. Washer had alerted him to the fact that the Broad River would be getting three artificial sports fields. The Broad River sports fields are located right across the street from the Kellogg/Deering well field and the artificial turf has PFAS involved in the grass blades and shed PFAS. She said that the company involved claims that there is no PFAS in their product, but samples were found to contain PFAS. There were also concerns about crumb rubber infill and other types of infill materials. Discussion followed about not only the materials used but what happens to the materials when the turf is removed.

Ms. Lauricella said that she had some ideas on how to structure a public discussion. Ms. Washer said that she had already created a letter and added that she would be sending along some information to the other Committee Members. Mr. Schnierlein said that the pros and cons of using artificial turf has been discussed since the 1980's. He added that he had been in touch with someone who involved as a soccer goalie about researching the Washington soccer research.

Additional discussion followed. Mr. Schnierlein said that the discussion for the Water Quality would be the amount of PFAS from the artificial fields. The parents will have to weigh in on the other considerations such as grass vs. artificial turf.

Mr. Crespo suggested that they request the companies for a leachability study. Mr. Schnierlein said that he would request that type of study.

Ms. Lauricella said that the new Parks and Recreation Director was doing a study on the use of the various fields and how to prevent the overuse of the fields.

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

There was no additional information available.

3) Anything else?

Mr. Steadman asked for a update on Maritime grant funding. Ms. Washer said that she had not heard anything yet. She was told that they would be hearing sometime in November.

Mr. Schnierlein said that according to the USGS documents, the water temperature has dropped to about 60 degrees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present who wish to comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• Sept. 1, 2022

Mr. Schnierlein asked if there were any additional comments regarding the minutes.

Ms. Lauricella said that after Ms. Lynnell Jones spoke, Ms. Lauricella said that she had stated she was concerned when a citizen feels unwelcomed.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had pointed out to Ms. Jones that Ms. Jones had felt that the Water Quality Committee had not done anything. Mr. Schnierlein said that he had subsequently spoken with both Mr. Harris and Mr. Mooney and also took Mr. Harris out to check the site. Mr. Mooney worked on getting the neighbors to agree to dye testing. The final results was that it was not the neighbors septic systems. Mr. Schnierlein said that he had not said that at the time.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had requested Save the Sound test in the Harbor at that meeting. He was informed that they could not do it because they did not have the resources available at the time. Mr. Schnierlein requested that this be included in the notes.

**** A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED. ** MS. LAURICELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

h) Next meeting is Nov. 3, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. BARTUSH MOVED TO ADJOURN ** MR. CRESPO SECONDED**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
November 3, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chairman; John Crespo, Dick Harris, Diane Lauricella,
Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **DEEP** – No report.

- **Dept. of Aquaculture** – No report.

- **Dept. of Health** – Mr. Mooney reminded everyone that the drought emergency is continuing. The reservoir are at about 42% capacity and it would take an estimate of 8-10 inches of rain to reach an acceptable level.

- **Harbor Commission** – Mr. Steadman said that there will be a joint informational meeting with Eversource on November 16th meeting regarding the transmission lines under the Norwalk River.

Mr. Steadman then spoke about the industrial rezoning on the south part of Water Street. He reviewed the details of the plan.

There has not been any communication from the ACOE about the Railroad Bridge.

Mr. Steadman then spoke about the status of public access to the Norwalk River and Harbor.

Mr. Schnierlein commented that when power lines are buried in riverbeds, they tend to generate heat and it could have some serious impacts on that section of the river during July and August. The thermal impact could change the water temperature and affect migrating fish.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1) MS 4 suggestions from Diane

Ms. Lauricella said she would have something to present in December.

2) Wilson Point Cove testing and beach closures Bill and/or Dick –

Mr. Harris said that they had done three sets of testing. Two of the tests were done in dry weather and the results were good. The third test was done during wet weather and it appears that the higher levels are due to run off from the land. Mr. Schnierlein noted that due to the fact that there was so little rain during the summer resulted in more goose droppings remaining on ground which would raise the bacterial levels when runoff happened.

Ms. Lauricella said that they should state the type of testing that was done for the public. Mr. Harris said that they had tested for Enterococci.

3) CTDEEP 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 addition information about the Consent Decree.

Ms. Lauricella said that this was the time when the Capital Budgets were being created and she encouraged the Committee to speak to the administration and the BET about seeing the problems resolved sooner than later.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Harris said that there were just eight people in attendance at the recent meeting with Recreation and Parks.

Mr. Schnierlein said that the Parks Department had accepted their comments about the PFAS without comment.

The discussion moved to the amount of open space in relationship to the amount of development that is being proposed. He said that the Committee was aware of the issue but had not committed to anything verbally.

Ms. Lauricella said that with every bit of new development requires installation of modern plumbing and use best management practices for storm water. She said that she often reminds developers about including rain gardens and green roofs.

Regarding the PFAS issues, Ms. Lauricella spoke with the new Director of Parks and Recreation, Robert Stowers, about the fact that the well field already has PFAS contamination and the new turf field is very near the well field. She said that she would encourage the Committee members to write a letter regarding the environmental health issues and the sports injuries issue. She suggested that Mr. Stowers perform a cradle to grave study on natural sports fields vs. artificial turf sports fields. Mr. Stowers said that he would utilize the latest technologies, but Ms. Lauricella said that they should have a neutral party analyze the results.

Mr. Harris said that PFAS was a serious issue and suggested that the Committee research a DuPont situation that happened in West Virginia. Mr. Harris said that he had called two different laboratories and both were dealing with PFAS issues. He also mentioned that there were types of pollutants that comes off of rubber tires.

There is an additional type of pesticide that is also killing off fish. Discussion followed.

Ms. Washer said that she would like to send a letter about the PFAS issue and discussed the details. She will send out the newest draft of the letter in the next few days. She said that there were a number of tests that had already been run.

Mr. Harris listed a number of different types of cancers that have been traced to back to PFAS.

Ms. Lauricella suggested a summit meeting with the Mayor's Office, Recreation and Parks and the Health Department to discuss this issue before the end of the year. Ms. Washer said that she had a video that she would like to send to the Committee members. Mr. Harris said that there was a documentary called Dark Waters that the Committee should see. Discussion followed.

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED TO SCHEDULE A SUMMIT MEETING ON THE PFAS RUN OFF FROM THE ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELD BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.**

Mr. Schnierlein suggested that they write the letter and suggest a round table meeting about this. The discussion moved to the types of testing that were done when the Georgetown wire mill was following its closing in the 1980s.

Ms. Washer said that Beyond Pesticides has some funding from Stoneybrook Farms about the management of pesticide free sports fields. The City banned the use of pesticides on municipal property.

Mr. Steadman said that he had attended a walk along Calf Pasture Beach with members of the Tree Alliance. Norwalk was identified as having the clearest tree canopy in Fairfield County. Mr. Steadman said that Stamford has something called the stewardship scorecard which allows developers to get extra credit for environmental innovations.

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

Mr. Schnierlein said that he would like to compile a listing of topics to present to the Common Council and acknowledged that PFAS would most likely head the list.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present who wish to comment at this time.

Ms. Lauricella said that she had recently attended some classes and announced that the EPA will be having a class about preparing the public regarding PFAS in the drinking water. She will forward some of the information to the Committee members.

UConn CLEAR has developed a Watershed Mapping Tool and this may potentially have mapped every watershed and sub watershed in the areas. She will be sending the link to the Committee members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• October 6, 2022

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2022 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. HARRIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

h) Next meeting is Dec. 1, 2022 or Jan. 5, 2023.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he would not be present for the December meeting. Ms. Lauricella said that she would chair the meeting if something needs to be addressed.

Ms. Lauricella said that there would be a public hearing at 7 p.m. for a Tree Planting Plan. WestCOG did a tree canopy study and it would cost about \$150,000 for a Master Tree Planting Plan. Mr. Schnierlein cautioned everyone and related the details of a tree planting program at BMHS that had been destroyed by careless mowing.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MR. CRESPO SECONDED**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services