

**City of Norwalk
Mayor's Water Quality Committee Meeting
October 4, 2018
Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members: John Romano, Geoff Steadman, Steve Bartush, Joe Schnierlein, Pete Johnson

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police:

Guests: Nancy Chapman

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Accepted

DISCUSSION

1) Mission

Notes found from the Harbor Management Plan 2009 Amendment indicate the Mayor formed a Water Quality Committee in the fall of 1990 to analyze pollution problems and recommend measures to protect and improve the quality of water in Norwalk Harbor. The Committee should identify sources of pollution and increase public awareness of water quality concerns.

Recommendations formulated by the Committee should be implemented by the Mayor's Office, Common Council, Harbor Management Commission, Health Department, DPW, and other City offices with authorities and responsibilities to protect water quality.

2) Chairman Schnierlein said there needs to be an accurate environmental impact statement specific for Norwalk, and involve DEEP and local experts.

3) John Romano discussed the meeting with Eversource and his concerns. Eversource is not doing what they said they would and Mayor's Water Quality Committee, Harbor Management Commission and the Shellfish Commission does not support current proposal. The Mayor should not sign off on proposal. A letter should be drafted to the Common Council to table pending Eversource Project until new presentation showing alternate routes. John also stated a grant from the State or Eversource, as much as \$250,000, is needed for equipment and consultants to monitor water quality during the Walk Bridge replacement. John also asked if anyone was aware of the current construction on Manresa.

4) Chairman Schnierlein said monitoring stations upstream and downstream from the proposed bridge work should be set up at least a year before construction to monitor what is normal before work commences. These stations could cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 and ideally measure the surface water as well as the bottom water which would require a minimum of 4 stations. Monitoring should include dissolved oxygen, salinity, turbidity, and nitrogen and be continuous 24/7. Sampling for lead, mercury, PCB's and carcinogens should be done during and after sediments have been disturbed. This testing must be done in a lab that has the equipment to do so. The monitoring and sampling should be done by an outside agency, University, or non-profit organization. There should be protective measures ready to be used should large schools of fish,

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specifically menhaden (bunker), be migrating into the harbor and up river during times when work might exceed 150 to 190 decibels as this might kill the fish.

- 5) Geoff Steadman discussed a proposed scope of work for a project to identify potential water quality impacts that may be associated with the Connecticut Department of Transportation Walk Bridge Project and to recommend measures, including monitoring protocols, to mitigate those impacts on the Norwalk River and Harbor. The proposed scope of work shall not exceed \$5,000 and will be shared equally by the Harbor Management Commission and the Shellfish Commission.
- 6) Dick Harris said he will be a member. The Mayor expressed interest to have someone from Conservation and WPCA/DPW also on the Committee. Diane Lauricella expressed interest in being a committee member.
- 7) Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 6:00pm in the Health Department Library.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Meeting Adjourned 7:00pm

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 1, 2018 @6:00pm Health Department Library.

Minutes by Thomas Closter