

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chair; Steve Bartush, Jim Bartley, Dick Harris, Pete Johnson, Christopher Malik, Diane Lauricella, John Romano, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department

This meeting was conducted by Zoom Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

ROLL CALL

There was a quorum present.

COMMUNICATIONS

- **DEEP** – Mr. Malik said that there were some personnel changes in the DEEP office.
- **Dept. of Transportation via Shellfish or Harbor Comm.**—No report.
- **Dept. of Aquaculture** – No report.
- **Dept of Health** – No report.
- **Harbor Commission** – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Recommendations for Commissions and City.

Mr. Schnierlein said that the mission statement had been sent to the Commissioners. He said that he would be agreeable with sending the mission statement out in the format that it currently has. He felt that the Departments should be already aware of their roles.

The discussion moved to the statements regarding flood prone areas. Mr. Schnierlein said that when properties on California and Oregon coasts were flood damaged, the government often takes over the property by eminent domain.

Discussion followed about what areas would be included in the flood plain and including general categories in the document. There was a general consensus to include the categories.

The discussion moved to statement concerning population growth and reusing grey water for flushing toilets in developments. Ms. Lauricella said that she would like to have an ordinance regarding private drinking water wells and private septic systems have maintenance records. Mr. Johnson said that it would be important to know what the capacity of the sewer plant is and what the water quantity is, along with its interconnectivity with water distribution.

Ms. Lauricella said that it would be important to use the terminology of “sustainable development” by matching the developments with the sustainable resources. She reminded everyone that the City was in the process of revising the zoning regulations and this was the time to influence the proposed changes. Discussion followed.

Mr. Romano said that his concern was that the projects were presented in a very cookie-cutter manner rather than something that was Norwalk-centric. Mr. Steadman suggested that they chose one update and focus on that for the time being.

Ms. Washer said that there were some towns like Hartford that had a designated staff member whose job was to work on sustainability, including the tree canopy and water quality. Discussion followed.

Ms. Lauricella said that she would like to see p-phos grouped under water contaminants and felt that it would be good to be more strategic about reporting contaminated well fields. Ms. Washer pointed out that there was an entire class of chemicals that were found in p-phos. She also suggested that they work on having the level of p-phos in drinking water.

Mr. Steadman said that he found items d, e and g to be problematic, which he had addressed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Washer said that Mr. Harris had concerns about the monitoring program. Ms. Lauricella said that the volunteers were doing a good job, but would love to see the program enhanced.

Mr. Schnierlein said that U.S.G.S has monitors in the Norwalk River and Norwalk Harbor. He said that he come across the staff member and they had discussed placing a monitor near King Industries and also near the sewage treatment plant.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he would work on re-writing the document.

2. Mission Statement – See below.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to consider at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one who wished to comment at this time.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• Minutes of the 7-7 21 meeting.

Ms. Lauricella said that in the mission statement, she believed that they had mentioned “watersheds”, because the Norwalk Harbor Management encompasses the Five Mile River watershed. Mr. Bartush replied that the Five Mile River was part of the Saugatuck watershed.

Mr. Bartley said that Ms. Washer had noted that there was a split infinitive in the mission statement. Ms. Washer said she would send that change to Mr. Schnierlein. (See attached)

**** A MOTION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT THE MISSION STATEMENT AS CORRECTED.**

**** THERE WAS A SECOND.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

• Next meeting tentatively scheduled for September 5, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** MR. BARTLEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services.

Attachment #1

The purpose of the Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee is **to analyze objectively (got rid of the split infinitive)** the waters of Norwalk Harbor and to suggest measures to protect and improve the quality of its waters. Findings and recommendations formulated by the Committee **(deleted comma)** shall be shared with all appropriate City agencies/commissions, notably the Norwalk Harbor Commission and the Norwalk Shellfish Commission **(no comma needed here) which** act as the regulatory guardians of Norwalk Harbor. In addition to ongoing communications with the aforementioned parties, the committee shall provide an annual report and recommendations of their findings.