

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chairman; Steve Bartush, 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 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **DEEP** – Ms. Lauricella said that they would be discussing the consent decree later in the meeting.
- **Dept. of Aquaculture** – Steve – The Shellfish Restoration Guide will be held in Fairfield at 1:30 p.m. on August 8th. Ms. Lauricella asked Mr. Steadman to send her a link to the document. A brief discussion followed.
- **Dept. of Health** – Bill – Mr. Mooney said that they will be putting a larvicide in the catch basins on the 15th. Ms. Lauricella said that VectoLex is very concentrated. She said that she had discussed this product with Mr. Mooney's predecessor several times.
- **Harbor Commission** – Geoff – He said that the Commission had discussed the recent issuance of the Walk Bridge permit and expressed concerns that the Harbor Commission's comments were not acknowledge. He said that they had also discussed lack of recognition of the Harbor Master's role and authority.
- **Planning and Zoning** – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) **Remembering John Romano** – Joe

Mr. Schnierlein noted that if not for Mr. Romano's persistence, the Water Quality Committee would not exist. Mr. Schnierlein requested a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Romano.

2) Wilson Point Cove testing and beach closures -- Bill

Mr. Mooney said that they would be going to Wilson Cove next week to take readings. Harbor Watch is busy with remapping and updating their maps. They will resume taking readings once they are finished with their mapping project.

Mr. Mooney said he was pleased that the water sample for the month of July were very good. They have been testing during different tide cycles which was requested by the State.

Ms. Lauricella said that there were two shores and different parcels that could contribute to the water quality. She wished to know if the pond located north to Wilson Cove proper was being monitored. She asked where the sample sites were located. Mr. Harris said that he could not display the map online and suggested Ms. Lauricella stop by his office to see the map.

NEW BUSINESS

1) USGS data – Joe

Mr. Schnierlein said that the hot weather provided opportunities to look at the data. He said that they had taken some temperature readings at Cove Marina and one had gotten up to 78 degrees. This has a direct effect on the dissolved oxygen levels. He said that there were widely varying saturation readings and this is a concern. He reviewed the recent surface and bottom temperatures with the Committee members. The readings at the Maritime Aquarium and in the Harbor are not as high. If all the readings are accurate, Save the Sound will be asking questions. He pointed out that this issue may simply due to Mother Nature and that fish kills may happen because of this.

2) UCONN program to reduce runoff from impermeable surfaces – Louise

Ms. Washer said that UCONN was looking for a few towns to participate in CLEAR projects that would measure the runoff from impermeable surfaces. After the project concludes, the City will receive a report with low cost recommendations.

Ms. Washer asked if they would consider writing a letter recommending the City participate in the program.

Ms. Lauricella said that UNCONN's CLEAR program should be used by the City more. There were many locations where the students could assist by analyzing run-off. She offered to help draft a letter and suggested that they focus on the upper Harbor area.

Ms. Washer forwarded the document to the members of the Committees. She said that this might be a free way to update the Watershed Plan.

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED TO REQUEST THE CITY TO APPLY FOR INCLUSION IN THE UCONN CLEAR PROGRAM.**

**** MS. WASHER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3) Peppermint shrimp, invasive crabs and DO - Dick

Mr. Harris said that invasive crabs had been discovered in the Housatonic basin. He said that it appears the fish have taken care of the crabs, but during the trolling that the State requested, they discovered two different types of invasive shrimp; rockpool and Asian shrimp. He said that peppermint shrimp have also been captured during some trolling in the Norwalk Harbor and some of them were carrying eggs.

4) MS4 ideas: pls send me ideas, suggestions asap (Brief) Diane

Ms. Lauricella said that the Committee members should give her their comments by September 1st, so she can present it to the Mayor's Office. She noted that there were also some educational components. Mr. Schnierlein asked if the deadline had passed. Ms. Lauricella said that this year's deadline had passed but it was a living document and updated yearly. It is also a State requirement. Discussion followed about potential suggestions regarding storm water run-off.

5) 3. CTDEEP Consent Decree May 5th 2022 for past Violations (Discussion item). Diane

Ms. Lauricella said that she had sent out copies of the CT DEEP Consent Decree to the other Committee members. She noted that it was signed on May 5th. She was wondering why the Commission had not been aware of this until now. Mr. Schnierlein asked if the State was aware of the bypass events. Mr. Mooney said that a call is made but there is nothing in writing.

Mr. Harris then spoke about the two areas of concern: the sewage processing outfall at the Number 2 outfall and the illegal discharge across the river. He gave a brief overview of the meeting.

Ms. Lauricella said that the wording on this appears to show that the State is tired of waiting for movement on this issue. Her main concern was that the Water Quality Committee had no indication this was coming. Since the document was signed in May, the negotiations have been underway for quite a while. Discussion followed.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he would follow up on this and felt that the Committee was ignored in terms of informing them.

6) Anything else?

Mr. Steadman shared his screen which showed a memorial to Mr. Romano.

Mr. Steadman also displayed an aerial photograph of the Mill Pond area where the former Wells Fargo bank was located in East Norwalk. He said that there was quite a bit of impervious surfaces at this location.

Ms. Washer mentioned one of the businesses that had expanded their parking area with pervious pavers and put in a bio-swale to help with storm water runoff. Discussion followed about other large parking areas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one from the public who wished to comment.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 7.

Mr. Schnierlein noted that the agenda should read that the minutes were from July 7, 2022.

The following corrections were noted:

Page 2, under **John Crespo asked important question RE: calibration of equipment**, paragraph 1, line 1: please change the following from:

“Mr. Crespo said that he had spoken”

To: “Mr. Schnierlein said that he had spoken”

Page 3, under **Anything else?**; paragraph 5, line 2: please change the following from:

“City of Norwalk does not own the water treatment plants.”

To: “City of Norwalk does not own the drinking water treatment plants.”

**** MR. BARTUSH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2022 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. HARRIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2022 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next meeting is Sept. 1,2022.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. HARRIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services