

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 7, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chair; Steve Bartush, John Crespo, Dick Harris,
Diane Lauricella

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **DEEP** – No report.
- **Dept. of Aquaculture** – Steve – No report.
- **Dept. of Health** – Bill – No report.
- **Harbor Commission** – John R. or Geoff – Mr. Schnierlein said that he had just spoken with DEEP and they informed him that they had approved the Walk Bridge Project despite the Harbor Commission's comments.
- **Planning and Zoning** – Michelle – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Wilson Point Cove update Dick or Bill

Mr. Mooney said that they had taken readings in Wilson Cove and the first reading was good. The second reading was after they had a half inch of rain. He spoke about the readings from the 13th, which were taken at dead low tide. This resulted in high readings, but a half hour later, the readings were much lower.

Mr. Mooney spoke about the bacteria readings near the discharge pipes by Trolley Lane, Witch Lane and MLK, which will need to be monitored.

2. MS4: Still waiting for Committee responses to me and copy of your comments would be very helpful. Diane

Based on the previous discussion, Ms. Lauricella had requested that the Committee become familiar with the MS4. Since she had not received any feedback, she would like to set a deadline of the next meeting. She said that they need to look at the management plan because the group is overseeing the water quality. The State is requiring all the Connecticut towns to submit a plan by July 1st. She said that she would send everyone a link to the full draft of the plan.

3. Our WQ List of Goals: Presentation outline for select Boards/Commissions to share info and welcome future collaboration Diane

Ms. Lauricella said that there had been a lot of discussion regarding educating the Boards, Committees, Commissions and Agencies. She said that she had just sent out a document regarding water quality awareness for the Boards, Committees, Commissions and Agencies. She then read the document aloud.

She said that they need to consider water quality and storm water management. Many of the meetings are still being held on Zoom. She said that they should select 2 entities to start with and create a presentation with their action goals, common interests and legislation. Ms. Lauricella said that she would be able to report to the Board Members as to how they are doing.

Ms. Lauricella said that the second component was Public Education and then listed a number of entities such as the Maritime Aquarium and the Public Library that might be potential partners to work with on public educational programming.

Mr. Schnierlein pointed out that the Board had agreed that the words “action goals” should be changed to “concerns” because they do not dictate to any entity what they should do.

The discussion moved to the Coastal Area Management Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

1) USGS equipment at the Aquarium fouling causing low DO reading

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had reported that the USGS equipment had fouled, which caused low Dissolved Oxygen. He said that the equipment like this can foul within 24 hours. The readings from May into June is critical and it is not just algae but other marine life that can clog the equipment.

2) John Crespo asked important question RE: calibration of equipment

Mr. Crespo said that he had spoken with the USGS staff about recalibrating the equipment after it has fouled. Mr. Schnierlein said that the staff was in Hartford, so it would be a three hour round trip to recalibrate when the equipment fouls. Discussion followed.

Mr. Harris said that he had been out on the water with the Aquarium staff the previous day, and the oxygenators were working and the reading at Wall Street was 2.5 at high tide.

Mr. Crespo asked Mr. Schnierlein to request a copy of the calibration records when he speaks with the DOT.

3) New position for Josh Morgan.

Mr. Schnierlein said that Mr. Morgan had been hired to work on communications and write grants for the City. Mr. Morgan is now working for the DOT. Ms. Lauricella said that the City had placed a part time City grant writer under the Finance Director before Mr. Morgan left. She said that the City was still working on an outdated system where the Grant Writer helps to coordinate the grant application. She said she would like to see a full time Grant Writer.

4) Anything else?

Mr. Harris said that the ACOE was going to dredge Pear Tree Point. The core drillings revealed a number of metals, DDT and other pesticides. He said that both he and Ms. Washer had asked for a copy of the report and there was also a proposal to put some of the material in a barrel dump off of Sherwood Island.

Mr. Schnierlein said that The Hour was reporting that Norwalk could only use organic pesticide compounds. Unfortunately, DDT is organic. Ms. Lauricella agreed and said that many people believe that organic is pure and clean, but there are organic substances that are not necessarily so. Ms. Lauricella said that she would send copies of the ordinance along with other document she was sending the Committee Members.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had contacted the Mayor about PFOS and PFOA. The Mayor replied they had lowered the EPA standards. He asked if the Health Department has received any information. Mr. Mooney said that he would check and agreed that this was a major topic.

Mr. Schnierlein said that they should encouraged the public to use a water filter with an activated charcoal filter.

Ms. Lauricella said that she was interested to see what the Health Department plan is since the City of Norwalk does not own the water treatment plants. She said that it would be important for the City to look at having an independent review. It is important to trust, but verify.

Mr. Crespo asked for a copy of the Pear Tree Point report. Mr. Harris said that he would send it out to the Committee members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• June 2, 2022

Under Storm Water Management Plan/MS4, second sentence: please change the following from:

“She said part of that license involves filing an annual storm water management plan.”

To: “She said part of that discharge permit for storm water management and that the permit involves filing and letting the public know about its existence and how they can comment.”

Under #3 WQ Action List, paragraph 1, line 3: please change the following from:

“to educate them about the various resources.”

To: to educate them about the various Water Quality goals and resources”

Under #3 WQ Action List, paragraph 4, line 3: please change the following from:

“many of the Committees and Commissions closely follow the development of the budget.”

To:

“many of the Committees and Commissions will soon be developing their budget and this is the way to start the dialog.”

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2, 2022 MEETING AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. HARRIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2, 2022 MEETING AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT.

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

**** MR. HARRIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services