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City of Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee Meeting July 2, 2020 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 6:01 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members: Joe Schnierlein, Pete Johnson, Chris Malik, Steve Bartush, John Romano, Dick Harris, Diane Lauricella, Geoff Steadman, Jim Bartley, Louise Washer, John Crespo

Staff: Thomas Closter

Guests: None

MEETING HELD BY ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion to Approve by Pete Johnson, second by Dick Harris. Unanimous Vote.

DISCUSSION

- 1) Chairman Schnierlein discussed a draft for a water use policy in Norwalk. He would like the Mayor's Water Quality Committee to encourage the Common Council to adopt policies that could advise citizens of a water shortage, such as the Norwalk River at a flow rate in the 25th percentile so they may begin water conservation before we are in a major drought. He also has concerns with Norwalk's population increase with new development projects and wants to create a sustainable future of Norwalk's water supply.
- 2) Chairman Schnierlein said the online public meeting with the Connecticut Department of Transportation discussed the potential uses of Manresa Island as a staging area during the Walk Bridge Replacement Project. Discussion also centered on possible barge locations and vehicle traffic possibly affecting the neighborhood. John Romano stated that the Department of Transportation did not adhere to the comment period and their application has been submitted. Steve Bartush said the Harbor Commission and the Shellfish Commission sent in writing a list of questions for the meeting and there has been no response.
- 3) Chairman Schnierlein said there has been no communication with Eversource and their plans for the transmission line relocation project. Committee members are still very concerned about the path and method. There also has been no recent communications with DEEP.
- 4) Chairman Schnierlein and Geoff Steadman talked about turbidity measuring and restrictions and concerns when dredging takes place for the Walk Bridge Project. Geoff discussed Best Management Practices and measures taken to limit turbidity. The Department of Transportation has three monitoring stations to measure turbidity

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data to establish background data. Consultant Tom Hart has analyzed the data and has preliminary observations to discuss with DOT. They will review the data and implications for the permit. Pete Johnson questioned whether the measuring devices were in place for a year to get monthly readings. Steve Bartush discussed the turbidity data and it is not clear whether or not the exceedances of the threshold will spur an investigation or stop the work and then spur an investigation. Chairman Schnierlein said the turbidity measuring at the Police dock was done incorrectly, the device should have been attached to the dock and not be stationary at the piling with no tidal change.

- 5) Diane Lauricella said it may be beneficial to meet with the City Code Enforcement Committee to express concerns that developments are being planned properly.
- 6) Tom Closter said the Director of Health has daily briefings with the Mayor's Office, Norwalk's Emergency Management Team, South Norwalk Electric & Water and the First District Water Department regarding recent water conditions. South Norwalk Electric & Water reports reservoir measurements as of June 29, 2020 at 84.3% and the following week the drought trigger is at 75.8%. The reservoirs didn't receive any appreciable precipitation from the recent rains. The Mayor mentioned conserving water in his daily briefing and will partner with the Water Departments to message conserving water use.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:00pm (Zoom)

Motion to adjourn meeting by Geoff Steadman, second by Pete Johnson 6:56pm
Minutes by Thomas Closter