

**City of Norwalk
Mayor's Water Quality Committee Meeting
June 4, 2020
Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER 6:04 PM

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Thomas Closter

Guests: None

MEETING HELD BY ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion to Approve by Pete Johnson, second by Steve Bartush with one correction.

Unanimous Vote. Diane Lauricella was not questioning regular testing on the public water supply. She would like assistance for surprise spot sampling for known pollutants or contaminants.

DISCUSSION

- 1) Chairman Schnierlein said he talked with the Bureau of Aquaculture inquiring whether COVID-19 has an impact on the Shellfish Industry. They will not be testing shellfish at all because experts say that it is a respiratory illness and no evidence of Covid-19 transmission through food. He also talked about facts relating to Covid-19 in the wastewater treatment process and how it could be an indicator within a community.
- 2) Chairman Schnierlein talked about the online public meeting being held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:30pm. The Connecticut Department of Transportation will discuss the potential uses of Manresa Island as a staging area during the Walk Bridge Replacement Project. Discussion also centered on possible barge locations. The 92 acre parcel contains coal ash fill and other contaminants and is owned by NRG energy.
- 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) Chris Malik said that Aquarion has submitted a permit renewal application to divert water from Bridgeport to Stamford and Greenwich.
- 5) Chairman Schnierlein and Geoff Steadman talked about turbidity measuring and restrictions. Consultant has reviewed the Department of Transportation's turbidity

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data and has an analysis based on the samples he reviewed. They will review the data and implications for the permit. The turbidity measuring at the Police dock was done incorrectly, the device should have been attached to the dock and not be stationary.

- 6) Louise Washer said the Norwalk River Watershed Association has heard from DEEP regarding a public hearing on the First Taxing District's plan to work on the dam on the Silvermine River for a pre hearing on July 22, 2020. She also said the Silvermine River was marked as a high priority for temperature testing.
- 7) Dick Harris has run tests in the Norwalk Harbor and found low bacteria counts. He also raised concerns again regarding mitten crabs and how he found three more this week in the Housatonic River.
- 8) Diane Lauricella talked about the new Sewage Treatment Plant operators. Chairman Schnierlein said he would reach out to them.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 6:00pm (Zoom)

Motion to adjourn meeting by Pete Johnson, second by Dick Harris 6:45pm
Minutes by Thomas Closter