

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 2, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chair; Steve Bartush, John Crespo, Dick Harris, Diane Lauricella, Louise Washer, John Romano (6:20 p.m.)

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS:

DEEP – No report.

Dept. of Aquaculture – Steve or Pete – No report.

Dept. of Health –Mr. Mooney – Started some of the recordings. The septic system information will be put up on the website.

Harbor Commission –John R. or Geoff – No report.

Planning and Zoning – Michelle – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Wilson Point Cove early testing May of 2022 – Dick or Bill

Mr. Harris said that he had done some testing two weeks ago and everything was fine. He will check today's readings. He said that there was also some testing done on Trolley Lane and it was okay.

Ms. Lauricella asked about the parameters used for Trolley Lane and Wilson Cove. Mr. Harris gave her the type that they were testing for. Ms. Lauricella said that she would contact Mr. Harris with some suggestions for additional parameters.

2) Stormwater Management Plan /MS4

Ms. Lauricella said that the MS-4, Municipal Separate Storm Water Systems, is a discharge system for storm water. She said part of that license involves filing an annual storm water management plan. She recommended that the Committee members become familiar with the storm water management plan. The information is wide ranging. She then listed a number of topics covered in the various sections. She said that they had filed the 2004 report, but there were reports missing from 2005-2012. The most recent plan is on the website.

Ms. Lauricella said that she would like the Committee to encourage the Public Works Department to inform the public about the availability of this plan. It is also important to have the Council Members and the various Boards and Commissions that have work that involves conservation aware of this. She added that the public is aware of a public complaint and observation process, so that the individual who contacts the City about this is treated with respect.

Mr. Romano joined the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Ms. Lauricella said that she would like the Committee members to review the document and submit their comments before meeting with the DPW staff with suggestions for improvements. It is important to insure that this document is available to the public. Another meeting should be scheduled with the Health Department and also work with the Grants Department for future funding. Discussion followed.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had made some comments and he also reminded everyone that the published report was a draft. He said that one of his comments had to do with the work at Wilson Cove. Ms. Lauricella said that she would be willing to coordinate the compilation of the comments. A brief discussion followed about the scope of the comments.

3) WQ Action List Visit select Boards, Commissions, Committees

Ms. Lauricella said that the Water Quality Committee had discussed working on outreach to the various Boards, Commissions, Committees and Council Members to seek common ground. She said that it would be helpful to educate them about the various resources. She suggested that having the Harbor Commission informed. The new Ad Hoc Sustainability Council Committee and the Council Services Committee might be good candidates to also reach out to with the educational resources. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bartush said that when they had worked on the list, they had resolved to send the listing out to the media. He asked if it had been sent out. Mr. Schnierlein said that it had been sent to Nancy on Norwalk and The Hour, but he had not seen the information published in the media.

Mr. Romano pointed out that there had been a number of staff members who had left and there were a number of new employees on staff. There was further discussion about starting a dialog with a few of the Committees, like the Conservation Committee.

Ms. Lauricella said that her former role on the League of Women Voters had involved her making the public aware of the role of the various Commissions and Committees. She noted that many of the Committees and Commissions closely follow the development of the budget. This is a way to start the dialog. She mentioned a number of Committees that deal with water quality on a regular basis and this will help them move out of the separate silos.

Mr. Harris said that the various Committees, Commissions and Departments needed to come to the Water Quality Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Spraying by Eversource update by Louise

Ms. Washer aid that she did not have any updates.

2) Early algae blooms in harbor

3) Early low DO readings in harbor

Mr. Schnierlein said that there had been an algae bloom already. He also spoke about the reading from the USGS data showing a surface oxygen level as very low. Mr. Harris said that he only checks the levels once a day. Mr. Schnierlein said that when the Oxygen levels drop below 3, it is not unusual to see dead fish. These readings have come from the sensors by the Maritime Aquarium, but the other readings are fine.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public who wished to comment at this time.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• April 7, 2022

**** MR. SCHNIERLEIN MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2022.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2022 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. HARRIS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. BARTUSH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.