

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 1, 2023**

This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chairman; Steve Bartush, Dick Harris, Louise Washer
Geoff Steadman

OTHERS: Kyle Bader, Health Department, Alan Kibbe, Harbor Chair; Lynelle Jones

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called. A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS:

• **DEEP** – No report.

• **Dept. of Aquaculture** – Steve or Geoff – Mr. Harris said that he had spoken to Aquaculture in Milford about red algae. Mr. Schnierlein said that he had seen a large number of menhaden in the Five Mile River. The menhaden do not appear to be affected. Mr. Harris named the type of flagellate that the red algae was and noted that it could potentially cause problems, but no one was worried at this time.

• **Dept. of Health** – Bill or Dept. of Health Rep. – Mr. Bader said that Mr. Harris had accompanied Mr. Mooney in taking water samples and they were waiting on the results. Mr. Schnierlein said that based on the number of menhaden he saw, the red algae was not a problem.

• **Harbor Commission** – Geoff or John – Mr. Kibbe said that they were going to work with a power transmission consultant to do a peer review of the electrical transmission design. Mr. Schnierlein said that Mr. Steadman had received a document about the design. Mr. Schnierlein pointed out that if the Siting Council approves this plan, there is very little the Harbor Commission can do.

Mr. Kibbe noted that he, along with the Harbor Marine unit and the Harbor Master, have been invited to a second stakeholder's meeting about the bridge construction.

- **Planning and Zoning** – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- **PFOS sampling on Norwalk R. – Dick Harris**

Mr. Harris said that thanks to Ms. Washer, he had become aware of the dangers of PFOS. He went out to the site and conducted a test. The area test results indicate the PFOS and PFAS were both present. Unfortunately, the State money that was allocated for PFOS has been removed from the State budget.

The Wilton playing fields project was voted down. Mr. Harris gave the details, which included the fact that he and Ms. Washer had provided information regarding the PFOS concerns to the Town. There also were concerns about the fact that the mill rate would increase substantially.

Mr. Harris went on to explain that the State had allocated funding for PFOS testing, but the money had been pulled. The State had not released any criteria for surface water sampling or other types of sampling. There are few locations that have been tested. Both the Norwalk River and the Silvermine River are polluted.

Mr. Harris said that he and Ms. Washer had discussed the testing and discovered there was a company called Cyclopure that offers testing for \$79.00 as opposed to York Labs, which cost \$295 per test. He and Ms. Washer will be doing some comparison testing and also test the Five Mile River and the Saugatuck River. Mr. Harris said that he now has metal testing equipment from both York and Cyclopure, which will help with contamination when the results are processed.

Mr. Harris informed the Committee that the Town of Wilton had attempted to extract \$1.3 million dollars from the school budget along with increasing the tax rate by six mills to pay for the artificial turf playing field. That was voted down. Both Maine and Vermont have outlawed the artificial turf fields while New York and Massachusetts are in the process of banning them.

Ms. Washer said that while Cyclopure is less expensive, they are not a certified lab. She said that she was viewing the test results as screening and a method to identify areas that need further testing. Mr. Harris added that the surrounding states are using Cyclopure for their testing needs. Discussion followed.

Mr. Harris said that he had submitted some soil cores from Pear Tree Point and Norwalk for nicotinoid pesticides. Cornell sent the test result back last week and they were negative for nicotinoids. He said that the nicotinoids can last up to five years before they break down.

• **Directory of who to call** – Diane

Mr. Schnierlein said Ms. Lauricella has sent an email with information in it regarding changes in the minutes. She has not completed the Directory at this time.

**** MR. BARTUSH MOVED TO ENTER THE EMAIL DOCUMENT FROM MS. LAURICELLA INTO THE RECORD.**

**** MS. WASHER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ENTER THE EMAIL DOCUMENT FROM MS. LAURICELLA INTO THE RECORD PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

a) Red Algae

Mr. Schnierlein said that there had been a number of complaints about “red stuff” in the water. He said that Mr. Mooney had taken some samples with Mr. Harris. This is not unusual for this time of year and is not an harmful algae bloom. The menhaden eat the algae.

b) PFAS future testing

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

c) Eversource plans for drilling

Mr. Kibbe said that the last plans indicated that the excavating would start at 25 Van Zant Street and it would pass under Rt. 136. He gave the details as to where the pipe would be placed and where the splice bunkers were.

Mr. Schnierlein said that the area where the lines are going is a flood zone. He said that he had questioned the location of the split bunkers and the staff stated that the bunkers were water tight.

f) Public Comments if time permits

No one wished to comment at this time.

g) Reading and approval of minutes from May 4, 2023.

**** MS. WASHER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 4, 2023 MINUTES WITH THE CHANGES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. HARRIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

h) Next meeting is July 6, 2023.

Mr. Steadman joined the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Mr. Harris said that he would like to see the drawings that had been submitted for the transmission lines. Mr. Kibbe said that the Connecticut Siting Council had posted the drawings on their website as Project 1560. Mr. Steadman said that since the Siting Council had approved the project, the drawings had been removed from that site. Mr. Steadman said that he had download some of information and believed he might have a link to get back to the drawings, which he will forward to the Committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BARTUSH MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. WASHER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services