

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 6, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chair; Jim Bartley, Steve Bartush, John Crespo, Dick Harris, Pete Johnson, Chris Malik, John Romano, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer

OTHERS : Tom Closter

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

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

COMMUNICATIONS

DEEP –re: Lynelle Jones’ letter

Mr. Malik said that they had investigated the jurisdiction regarding the storm water discharge pipe on Wilson’s Point and it is a unregulated area. He suggested that the Committee consider presenting an educational program for the area residents. Discussion followed.

Mr. Schnierlein asked Mr. Bartush if he had been able to inspect the site because one of the issues was the claim that there was pollution. Mr. Bartush said that he had not scheduled a visit there. Mr. Schnierlein pointed out that there was no factual evidence regarding that claim.

Dept. of Transportation via Shellfish Comm. –

Mr. Bartush said that there a lead abatement letter had been received. He said that Ms. Jones and the DOT will be attending the Shellfish Committee meeting. Ms. Washer said that she had received emails from an individual regarding the use of pesticides on the private property involved. A discussion followed about what the role of the public, Save the Sound, and Harbor Watch regarding water discharges from private neighborhoods.

Dept of Health

No report at this time.

Harbor Commission

Mr. Steadman said that the DOT's team gave a presentation to the Harbor Commission. The DOT team did not comment on the Eversource project or Manesa Island. Mr. Romano said that there was a DOT application and an application from DiNardo for projects in the same area. Discussion followed about the fragmented information that the Commission was receiving.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to consider at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Dick Harris – mitten crab

Mr. Harris said that they have been logging in the crabs that have been captured by the oyster fishermen. He said that this invasive crab has become established in the Housatonic area and are spreading out. Dr. Hudson from the Maritime Center is also involved in this project and has been storing the captured crabs. Black sea bass and stripers will eat them. A short piece on this was broadcast on Channel 3 and Channel 6, along with MSNBC.

2. Mission Statement. Do we keep it or as for a revision?

Mr. Schnierlein said that the Mission statement is good, but noted that the Water Quality Committee should have been sending reports to the Harbor Commission, the Shellfish Commission and the Mayor. This needs to be done.

Mr. Steadman pointed out that the Water Quality Committee does not have any authority because it is only an advisory committee. The Harbor Commission and the Shellfish Commission have statutory authority. The Committee was created in 1990 due to political issues around the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Steadman said that they could craft a mission statement that could be presented at the next meeting for discussion. A discussion followed about managing storm water.

3. Anything else?

Mr. Steadman said that they had not made progress on the Norwalk River Watershed. Mr. Malik said that he and Alexa had met with Chris about organizing a meeting.

Mr. Steadman asked about the 3/19 grant decision. Ms. Washer said that they had been given information regarding another grant possibility.

Mr. Steadman said that they had not heard anything about the status of the wastewater treatment plant permit. Mr. Malik said that he would follow up on this.

Ms. Washer said that she had looked into the issue with the School Sisters of Notre Dame property discharges and the issue has been clarified. There is no problem there.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one from the public who wished to comment at this time.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

•April 1, 2021

The following correction was noted:

Page 2, under Harbor Commission, please change the following from:

Mr. Steadman said that he had met with Professor Hart along with Steve and Mr. Romano.

To : Mr. Steadman said that he had met with Professor Hart along with Mr. Bartush and Mr. Romano.

**** MR. BARTUSH MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2021 MEETING AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. MALIK SECONDED**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for June 3, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** MS. WASHER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Mayor's Water Quality Committee
Regular Meeting
May 6, 2021