

**City of Norwalk
Mayor's Water Quality Committee Meeting
April 4, 2019
Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Thomas Closter

Guests: Tony Mobilia, Dr. John Pinto

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Accepted with three changes:

Dick Harris will be collecting water samples and sending to a certified lab.

Chairman Schnierlein asked Eversource how they collected water samples and they replied "with a spoon".

The Shellfish Commission will "wait to see" if Eversource will indicate if a new Benthic Macroinvertebrate Study will be provided.

DISCUSSION

- 1) Chairman Schnierlein passed out a document detailing Norwalk Harbor bottom species for Eversource, including seventeen fish, twelve mollusks and fifteen crustaceans.
- 2) Louise Washer and Chris Malik said there may be a meeting in June for the Norwalk River Watershed.
- 3) Chairman Schnierlein and Dick Harris talked about the Buck Scientific report about the high concentrations of lead near the Walk Bridge that they reported. They met with Buck Scientific and discussed unfounded information in samples that were not preserved, processed in a lab that was not certified, has no quality assurance plan and waited thirty days to process the water samples. Subsequent industry-paid sampling demonstrated no lead issues.
- 4) Diane Lauricella reiterated the importance of having other regional labs to use for sampling.
- 5) Thomas Closter discussed Chapter 57 of the Norwalk Code of Ordinances which provides the Mayor with the authority to declare a water emergency and enhance water conservation. The Norwalk Police Department is charged with enforcing the conditions and after advising violators to curtail prohibited activities, failure to comply can result in a fine of \$90 per day for each day the violation exists. The Committee discussed whether the fine was too low or being able to turn water off to be stricter. Diane Lauricella and Louise Washer talked about the importance of an education campaign for safe drinking water, wells, water conservation and septic outreach.
- 6) Diane Lauricella passed out a document regarding Connecticut's Water Quality Standards which are the basis for permitting and other programs protecting state waters. Topics mentioned were water quality criteria, disinfection periods, water quality maps, downstream protection, use and flow.
- 7) Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 6:00pm in the Health Department. Motion to adjourn meeting by John Crespo, second by Pete Johnson 7:02pm
Minutes by Thomas Closter