

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 1, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chair; Jim Bartley, Steve Bartush, John Crespo, Dick Harris, Chris Malik, John Romano, Diane Lauricella, 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 6:03 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

DEEP – follow up communication from Chris, Susan Jacobson, and Kate Brown re; Lynelle Jones letter which I will forward the thread

Mr. Schnierlein stated that they had received responses from Ms. Jacobson and Ms. Brown. He explained that Ms. Jones had claimed that there was an illegal drain and there was an issue with an illegal pump out station. Mr. Schnierlein said that there was a portable pump out company that had been working on the boats.

Mr. Romano requested Mr. Schnierlein send copies of the responses from Ms. Jacobson and Ms. Brown. Mr. Romano stated that Ms. Jones seems to believe there was an undocumented drainage system that flows into the Sound and the new drainage system is tied into that undocumented system.

Mr. Romano said that it was his understand that DEEP requires a pump out station and that it must be open to the public.

Mr. Steadman said they had discussed this issue a few years ago and that it was not a municipal drain and did not have to conform to the MS4 general permits. Discussion followed about the details of undocumented storm drainage systems that were installed before the regulations were in place.

Mr. Steadman said that he had been able to access the previous correspondence from 2019 and that he had contacted DEEP, but never received an answer about private storm drainage systems that were installed before the regulations were in place.

- **Eversource**, - No report.
- **Dept. of Transportation via Shellfish Comm.** – No new information.
- **Dept of Health** – No new information.
- **Harbor Commission** – Mr. Steadman said that he had met with Professor Hart along with Steve and Mr. Romano. He said that the Committee work was well underway and would be a nice presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bartley said that Mr. Roberts, the head of Parks and Recreation was leaving his position.

Mr. Steadman asked if there had been a petition submitted for the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Bartley recommended the name of someone in Hartford to follow up the inquiry with.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Dick Harris – water sampling during bridge work that he has done.**

Mr. Harris sent out copies of his data sheets to the Committee members. Pace Industries had analyzed two cores taken out of the harbor a few years ago for their metal content. He noted that one core was from above the bridge and one from below. Mr. Harris reviewed the results of those tests.

Two water collection stations were established above the bridge and two below. Water samples were sent to York Industries for analysis. He displayed the results of the tests with the Committee Members. Mr. Harris said that he was very pleased with the new testing results.

- **John Crespo and what he is seeing from graphing the DOT sondes' data.**

Mr. Crespo said that he had nothing new to add.

- **Anything else?**

Ms. Lauricella said that the Norwalk River Valley Trail had been moving forward, but there was a blank area along Riverside Avenue. Recently there had been a great deal of tree removal along Riverside Avenue which is a concern since the trees hold the soil in place. Due to the number of years between the original public hearings and the start of construction on this portion of the trail, she was suggesting that a listening session be held.

Ms. Washer said that the DOT was in charge of the project because it was on State land.

Discussion followed about the communication gaps and a recent bill that was under consideration that would allow UI and Eversource to trim more aggressively.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• March 4, 2021

Page 2, under **NEW BUSINESS**, paragraph 4, line 2: please change the following from:

“There are over 60 rivers that flow into the Norwalk River”

to: “There are over 60 rivers that flow into the Long Island Sound”

Page 2, under **NEW BUSINESS**, paragraph 6, line 1; please change:

“ Ms. Lauricella asked if the Earth Place Lab and SOS would”

to: “ Ms. Lauricella asked if the Earth Place Lab and Save the Sound would”

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED THE MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2021 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. HARRIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 4, 2021 MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Steadman announced the bill number for the new Eversource/UI tree trimming. Ms. Washer said that she had previously written a letter to them about this. Discussion followed.

Next meeting tentatively May 6, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

**** A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. LAURICELLA SECONDED.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services