

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 3, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chair; John Crespo, Dick Harris, Pete Johnson, Diane Lauricella, Chris Malik, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer, John Romano (6:05 p.m.), Steve Bartush (6:29 p.m.)

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department, Peter Johnson, Shellfish Commissioner; Sam Marquand, Save the Sound

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He requested a moment of silence for those in the Ukraine.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called. A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS:

• **DEEP** – Chris

Mr. Malik said that he was retiring and this would be his last meeting with the Committee. Mr. Schnierlein thanked Mr. Malik for his contributions. Mr. Malik then listed the names of the staff that will be assuming his duties.

• **Dept. of Aquaculture** – Steve or Pete

Mr. Steadman said that the Department of Aquaculture was supportive of the Water Quality's request to monitor the water quality during the Walk Bridge construction.

• **Dept. of Health** – Bill. – No report.

• **Harbor Commission** – John R. or Geoff

Mr. Steadman said that the reason for the special meeting later in the evening was to discuss the letter to DEEP regarding the upcoming Walk Bridge project.

• **Planning and Zoning** – Michelle – No report.

Ms. Lauricella said that there were posters informing people that they could submit comments for the industrial development through the month of March.

Mr. Romano joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

e) DEEP permit for Walk Bridge construction – Geoff. Or John Missing environmental requirements in DEEP's Permit

Mr. Steadman said that it would be important for the Water Quality Committee to express support for the Harbor Commission's statement. The Harbor Management submitted a request that they extend the public comment period with the understanding that the Harbor Commission, Water Quality Committee and the Shellfish Commission would be having a joint meeting later in the evening. Mr. Steadman repeated that the public comment was closed for the general public on February 28th, except for comments from the Harbor Commission.

He added that the terms and conditions of the contract do not include any requirements for water monitoring. As a result of these concerns, the DOT conducted baseline turbidity sampling in order to determine what level of turbidity would be acceptable during the project.

The conditions for water quality monitoring that the DOT originally proposed was not included in the current proposal. He proceeded to outline the key proponents of the Harbor Commission's documents. Mr. Steadman said that the public comment was closed for the general public but only open for comment from the Harbor Commission

Mr. Romano said that he was surprised that the shellfish industry was not more involved. Mr. Steadman repeated that the public comment was closed for the general public on February 28th, except for comments from the Harbor Commission. He said that the lack of support from the industry, the Shellfish Commission and the Water Quality was missing. Discussion followed about the potential of collecting letters from the shellfish industry to submit to DOT on Monday, March 7th.

Mr. Harris said that he would ask Mr. Bloom to provide a letter in support of the Harbor Management request.

Mr. Bartush joined the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

Mr. Steadman noted that Mr. Sam Marquand from Save the Sound was on the line and would like to comment on the issue. He said that Save the Sound was supportive of this issue.

Mr. Schnierlein said that the USGS monitors by the Maritime were providing real time data and then suggested that the USGS be called in as a third party resource. However, he reminded

everyone that the monitors will be removed after two years. Discussion followed about whether it was appropriate for the USGS to be responsible for providing data that the DOT did not request.

**** MS. WASHER MOVED TO ISSUE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE HARBOR'S AND SHELLFISH'S COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEEP IN REGARDS TO THE WORK THAT WAS BEING PROPOSED FOR THE WALK BRIDGE PROJECT.**

**** MR. JOHNSON AND MS. LAURICELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The discussion then moved to language regarding the water temperatures and limiting the work to incoming tides.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter of support for SB120. An Act concerning the use of chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoids for nonagricultural use.

Mr. Schnierlein then spoke about a letter that had been sent out earlier in the day about SB120.

**** MR. ROMANO MOVED TO FULLY ENDORSE THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SB120. AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CHLORPYRIFOS AND NEONICOTINIDS FOR NONAGRICULTURAL USE.**

Ms. Washer said that it might be good to address the letter to Senator Duff, along with Joe Gresko and the chairs of the Environmental Committee.

Ms. Lauricella said that the full title of the bill should be included in the letter.

**** MS. WASHER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• February 3, 2022

The following corrections were made:

Page 5, under New Business, paragraph 3, line 3: please change the following from:

“The finger crabs and herons returned to the area.”

To: “The fiddler crabs and herons returned to the area.”

Page 6, paragraph 2, line 2: please change the following from:

“He said that procedurally, the Homeowners Association should have submitted a set of plans that were stamped stating that no plans were needed.”

To: “He said that procedurally, the Wilson Cove Point Home Owners Association should have submitted a set of plans that were stamped stating that no plans were needed.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 3, 2022 MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. WASHER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. HARRIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.

**CITY OF NORWALK
JOINT MEETING OF THE
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION,
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
AND THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MARCH 3, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: **Harbor Management Commission**

John Romano, Chair
Allan Kibbe
Dr. John Pinto
Laurie Jones
John Crespo

Shellfish

Peter Johnson, Chair
Steve Bartush

Water Quality:

Joseph Schnierlein, Chair
Dick Harris
Diane Lauricella
Geoff Steadman
Louise Water

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department; Bruce Lovallo, Harbor Master

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Romano called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. He said that the Commissions and the Committee has already reviewed electronic copies of the documentation. The group would be approving a concept for each item.

Mr. Steadman said that the discussion has to do with the DOT permit for the Walk Railroad Bridge. Mr. Steadman stated that the public comment was closed for the general public on February 28th, except for comments from the Harbor Commission.

The following topics were then reviewed and discussed by the group:

1. Protecting Water Quality
2. Maintaining Public Navigation Safety

3. Planning for bulk-heading along the proposed Water St. Marina staging area
4. Ensuring future water-dependent uses
5. Establishing and maintaining coordination with the Harbor Master & local emergency services
6. Managing barge mooring locations, and
7. Protecting the quality of life in shorefront residential areas adjoining Manresa Island
8. Wetland Remediation (by DOT)

The comments were noted and will be compiled into the comments that are sent to the DOT regarding the permit for the Walk Railroad Bridge.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. ROMANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

Mr. Steadman asked for an update on the status of the Coast Guard Permit, and the Eversource Project.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services