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City of Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee Meeting February 7, 2019 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Members: Steve Bartush, Joe Schnierlein, Pete Johnson, John Crespo, Dick Harris, Chris Malik, Jim Bartley, Diane Lauricella

Staff: Thomas Closter

Guests: Pat DeVito, Elsa Peterson Obuchowski, Tony D'Andrea, Sue Prosi

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Accepted

DISCUSSION

- 1) Chairman Schnierlein discussed Bob Duff's proposal to convert Calf Pasture Beach to a Wildlife Refuge. Chairman Schnierlein opposes the act and with the support of the Mayor's Water Quality Committee will send a letter to the Norwalk Common Council. In the 1980's, there was a high rate of closures of shellfishing due to high E. coli concentrations. Most of the closures were a result of the E. coli in the fecal material from geese. A Canada goose can leave behind 1 to 2 lbs. of fecal material per day. At a rate of 300 to 500 geese, this raw fecal matter, after rain, will close beach and shellfishing activities.
- 2) Chairman Schnierlein, along with Geoff Steadman, Tom Hart, Dr. Pinto, Steve Bartush and John Romano met with the Connecticut Department of Transportation and they committed to doing real time monitoring for turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and salinity via an outside contractor.
- 3) Diane Lauricella talked about the Norwalk River Initiative moving forward. She believes the public needs to be involved more and is concerned about the lack of resources. Chris Malik stated they were very successful with many projects.
- 4) Diane Lauricella talked about opportunities for improving water quality through the Capital Budget. Joe Schnierlein will talk with the Harbor Commission about their current budget and try to find funding for testing equipment. Dick Harris talked about funding opportunities through Connecticut Sea Grant. He has had conversations with Norwalk's Water Pollution Control Authority regarding their wish list, including a new camera truck, and pipe improvements at Marvin Beach and Belle Island.
- 5) Diane Lauricella discussed Green Infrastructure opportunities and presented two books, (Design For Flooding & Where We Want To Live).
- 6) Notice was given that Aquarion will have an informational meeting on February 26, 2019 @ 6:30pm in the Wilton Library in the Brubeck Room located at 137 Old Ridgefield Rd.
- 7) Elsa Peterson Obuchowski introduced herself to Committee as a First Taxing District Commissioner and is interested in learning more about what the committee does and the extent to which it would be relevant to the 1st and 2nd taxing districts.
- 8) Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 6:00pm in the Health Department. Motion to adjourn meeting by Pete Johnson, second by Chris Malik 7:00pm

