

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chair; John Crespo, Dick Harris, Diane Lauricella, Chris Malik, John Romano, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department; Brittney Izbicki, USGS

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called. A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Harbor Commission – John R. or Geoff –

Mr. Romano said that there was a meeting that he attended but he could only listen to the discussion. He then spoke about a variety of groups that had concerns about Manresa Island and Wilson Point. Dr. Pinto was at the meeting and was able to speak.

Mr. Schnierlein said that one concern was that the draft did not address anything about water quality. Mr. Romano said that this was very disheartening and he also wondered why the City of Norwalk did not have an attorney on the call that would represent the Water Quality concerns.

DEEP – Chris Malik

Mr. Malik said that there had been concerns about hydrilla that was found in a tributary of the Silvermine River.

Mr. Harris said that they had not found any mitten crabs recently. One was found in early December in a dredging trench. He said that during the trawling they found a rockpool shrimp, which is also an invasive species. A skillet fish was also in the catch. Mr. Schnierlein said that the skillet fish were not commonly found in the past but had turned up more frequently.

Dept. of Aquaculture – Steve or Pete – No report

Dept. of Health – Bill – Mr. Mooney said that he had finished the testing.

Mr. Schnierlein asked about the drain pipe testing. Mr. Mooney said that there was a meeting next week about this.

Planning and Zoning – Michelle – No report.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Presentation on USGS monitoring of Norwalk R. and Harbor by Brittney Izbicki to get an idea of how data is presented take a few minutes to look at these two websites:

USGS Current Conditions for USGS 410606073245700 NORWALK RIVER AT NORWALK AQUARIUM NR S NORWALK, CT

https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/uv/?cb_all_=on&cb_00010=on&cb_00010=on&cb_00095=on&cb_00095=on&cb_00300=on&cb_00300=on&cb_00301=on&cb_00301=on&cb_32315=on&cb_32315=on&cb_63680=on&cb_63680=on&cb_72254=on&cb_72254=on&cb_90860=on&cb_90860=on&format=gif_default&site_no=410502073236000&period=&begin_date=2021-08-02&end_date=2021-08-09

Ms. Izbicki, from USGS, has been working on the Norwalk River status for the past few months. She narrated a USGS PowerPoint presentation on the work that has been done in the Norwalk Watershed and the data that has been collected over the decades.

The State of Connecticut has been working on nitrogen abatements. In May of 2021, they started a two year program monitoring the Mystic and Norwalk Rivers. They will be collecting year round embayment data at three sites until April 2023. She reviewed the details for the sample collection and parameters.

Ms. Izbicki said that the collected data was being reviewed. She expected to have a complete report in February. She displayed a preliminary chart showing the Phosphorous, dissolved oxygen and salinity at Ferry Point, obtained through discreet methods. She reviewed the effects that the data points indicated. She said that she was looking forward to collecting a full year's

worth of data and analyzing it in relationship to changes brought on by storms or other events. Discussion followed about the details of the data in relationship to the Walk Bridge construction.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had asked if the USGS could collect the data since the DOT was not interested in collecting data. Ms. Izbicki said that the USGS could assist with that. Discussion followed.

Mr. Schnierlein thanked Ms. Izbicki for her presentation.

2) DEEP permit for Walk Bridge construction – Geoff.
Draft DEEP Permit?? 2021Nov15WalkBridgeDraftPermit.pdf

Mr. Steadman said that there was a group that was concerned about Manresa Island. He then summarized the public hearing process. Mr. Steadman noted that it has been seven years since this project started. Mr. Schnierlein said that at the initial public meeting, the DOT had flatly stated that they were not going to take any preventative measures, but in the intervening time, they have agreed to turbidity curtains.

Ms. Lauricella asked if there was anyone who had been appointed as an formal intervener. Mr. Steadman said that an intervener could submit an appeal, however, he said that he did not think the City had appointed anyone. Discussion followed.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• 11/4/2021.

The following correction was noted:

Page 1, under **Watershed Initiative**, paragraph 1, line 2, please change the following from:

“National Fish and Wildlife \$15,000 grant”

To: National Fish and Wildlife \$150,000 grant

**** MS. WASHER MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2021 MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. HARRIS SECONDED.**

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

Mr. Schnierlein said that next month's meeting may be scheduled to start at 5:30 p.m. and said that he would be sending everyone an email about this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. HARRIS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. WASHER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services