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City of Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee Meeting January 7, 2021 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 6:03 PM

ATTENDANCE

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

Staff: Thomas Closter

Guests: Sarah Crosby, Ph.D.

MEETING HELD BY ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion to Approve by Dick Harris, second by Diane Lauricella. Unanimous Vote.

DISCUSSION

- 1) Chairman Schnierlein said there has been no communication with Eversource and their plans for the transmission line relocation project. Committee members are still very concerned about the path and method.
- 2) Chairman Schnierlein discussed the data received from the Department of Transportation for water quality monitoring. Data is good data as a comparison for the whole year. Geoff Steadman stated that the data should be related to events that increase turbidity like rainfall, tide, wind and bridge openings. Professor Hart will analyze the data.
- 3) Sarah Crosby, Ph.D., Director of Harbor Watch talked about the water quality data gathered each summer by hired interns. Harbor Watch monitors rivers and streams and the majority of the work is inland and not in the harbor. Focus is on sewage pollution and bacterial monitoring. Also, will look at temperature, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll and turbidity. Data distribution is by request with any town partner and at end of season with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The unified water study which is funded by the EPA has the goal of generating data and Save the Sound translates it to their report card. Norwalk can look at land use planning, impervious cover, green infrastructures, living shorelines and climate change to improve the grade. Water quality has been better in recent years.
- 4) Geoff Steadman stated he has concerns about the Norwalk Watershed Initiative and would like to see quarterly meetings started again.
- 5) Louise Washer asked for the Mayor's Water Quality Committee support for the Norwalk River Watershed Association's application for a FY2021 Clean Water

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Section 319 grant. Hoping for funding for continued water quality monitoring of the Norwalk River by Harbor Watch to gain an understanding of the nutrient and bacteria pollutant loadings and to help track down sources of pollution. Also, to help identify and develop plans for green infrastructure projects, promote sustainable landscaping and lawn care through the Pollinator Pathway project and raise awareness of proper septic maintenance.

Motion for Committee to support Section 319 grant by Dick Harris, second by John Crespo. Unanimous Vote.

- 6) Geoff Steadman said there is a public informational hearing on January 14, 2021 at 3:00pm on the renewal of the discharge permit.
- 7) Diane Lauricella made the Committee aware of the ongoing City budget process and would like to see funding for water quality based projects.
- 8) Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:00pm (Zoom)

Motion to adjourn meeting by John Romano, second by Dick Harris 7:06pm
Minutes by Thomas Closter