

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
APRIL 20, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Kelly Straniti, Chair; Richard Bonenfant; John Tobin; Joanne Romano; Andrew Conroy.

STAFF: Linda Gulliuzza, Corporation Counsel's Office.

OTHERS: Hal Alvord, Director of Public Works; Mark Cassera.

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by the Chair.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2010

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS (CONROY, ROMANO).**

OLD BUSINESS

PROPOSED STORMWATER ORDINANCE

Committee members reviewed the memo from Mr. Alvord and the proposed ordinance. The Chair said that Attorney Maslan feels that all of the concerns raised at the last meeting had been addressed.

Mr. Alvord said that in Sec. 93-20, the investigation by the Director of Public Health is an additional responsibility for the Health Department Director.

It was noted that the Public Works Committee is the final appeal. However, a person can then go to court. This related to Sec. 93-16.

Mr. Alvord noted that this ordinance had been forward to this committee by the Public Works Committee. Mr. Bonenfant asked if going into storm drains covered sewage. Mr. Alvord said that could be covered under this ordinance as well as through WPCA. Mr. Bonenfant asked why sewage goes into the pipes. Mr. Alvord said the sanitary sewer connection pipe can loosen over time.

Discussion took place on illegal hookups, of which there are very few according to Mr. Alvord.

Mr. Conroy said that Sec. 93-21 talks about penalties. He suggested that “and as authorized by statute” be added after “Approval of rates and fees” in subsection A.

The Chair said she was not crazy about the provision in Sec. 93-16 where the Director can enter the property and do whatever is necessary. Mr. Alvord said that in order to do so, there would have to be an imminent threat.

Ms. Romano asked about the fee structure for violations. Mr. Alvord responded that the fine is up to \$250/day.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mark Cassera, 19 Grey Hollow Road, said he has a home office. He has reported a pool company who drained a neighbor’s pool into the truck and then into a drainage easement. He said many people may be ignorant of the law and need to be educated. Policing will be nearly impossible because when the damage is done, it is done. The simplicity of the sewer vs. a catch basin is wonderful. He said he has also seen some landscape contractors, in drainage easements, dump their loads into the drainage easement. That was not very clear in this ordinance.

Discussion took place on illegal dumping vs. littering. Littering refers to under one cubic foot.

Ms. Romano said that Connspa is trying to pass a new law that requires that all people working for pool companies have to be licensed by the State.

Mr. Bonenfant asked what a catch basin is. Mr. Alvord said there are catch basins that discharge in a variety of manners. Some go off the roadway into a drainage easement; others are connected by pipes and gravity carries it into the outfall in the harbor.

Mr. Bonenfant asked what is supposed to happen with a pool acid wash. Mr. Alvord said it is supposed to be hauled off to a legal facility for disposal.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if things like this (pool cleaning) should be a permitted activity. Mr. Alvord said he was not sure if there should be a permit. If a person hires a licensed firm, there is a reasonable expectation that they should do what is expected.

NEW BUSINESS

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON STORMWATER ORDINANCE

**** MR. CONROY MOVED THAT A PUBLIC HEARING TAKE PLACE AT THE NEXT REGULAR ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. ROMANO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Telesco
Telesco Secretarial Services

