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City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting December 6, 2018 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:05 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Pat DeVito, Nick Sacchinelli

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police: Sgt. Pete LaPak

Advisory: Capt. Dave Hopp

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman, John Romano, Tony Mobilia

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

November Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Bartush, 2nd by Comm. Sacchinelli.

Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

Comm. DeVito reports:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		10/31/18	\$24,741.18	
DEPOSIT	Fishermans World	11/26/18	\$2,115.00	Permits
INTEREST		November	\$ 19.00	
EXPENSES	Frontier	11/18 to		
	Steve Bartush	12/19	(\$72.84)	Phone
			(\$10.90)	Flags
BALANCE		11/30/18		\$26,791.44
	Last Year	11/30/17		\$21,287.83
	Two Years Ago	11/30/16		\$17,914.11

SECRETARY

Commissioner Johnson received a map/chart from the Bureau of Aquaculture to identify areas for habitat restoration.

Motion made by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner DeVito to send an email to local industry for recommendations for habitat restoration within the City of Norwalk.

Unanimous Vote.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

7.11 inches of rain in November. Average since 1987 is 3.47 inches of rain for November. There were 196 calls in November. There were six closures for Cooke's Ground for over .5 inch on November 6, 9, 13, 16, 24 & 26, 2018. There were three closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) on November 13, 24 & 26, 2018 and no closures in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches).

There were no reports of a bypass for November 2018.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein met with Mayor Rilling to discuss concerns regarding Aquarion's filing of a permit to take water from a well that was first drilled in 1982 in Cannondale next to the Norwalk River and they want to draw up to 1 million gallons per day. Mayor Rilling sent a letter to Doug Hoskins of Ct DEEP and outlined how this will impact the level of the water table, the flow of the river, area wetlands, nearby private wells and the dissolved oxygen and salinity levels in the harbor. The water will go to Southwest Fairfield County towns to improve drought resiliency. Other concerns is when water tables are drawn down it causes the soil to compress which then causes more water to run off during rain events and increased flooding from the runoff. With a lower water table, the river itself will be lower, and that could impact people who have well water. The draw down may also effect the viability of the shellfish beds.

PERMITS

Commissioner DeVito stated outlets are closing out year-end permits and new permits will be ready for 2019.

POLICE

Sgt. LaPak reports 8 hours of patrol, no arrests and no violations.

ADVISORY

Water temperature reported at 45 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Tony Mobilia mentioned the State of the Harbor meeting will be held in City Hall, third floor, on Thursday, December 13, 2018 @ 7:00pm. Geoff Steadman said the Harbor Management Commission, as well as the Shellfish Commission, will be spending a great amount of time reviewing the Walk Bridge and Eversource applications. He stated that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection said that Eversource needs to provide alternative routes for the cable project.

Motion to accept committee reports by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Sacchinelli. Unanimous Vote.

OLD BUSINESS

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CTDOT will attend next Shellfish Commission meeting on January 3, 2019 for next update.

Commissioner Bartush discussed concerns with The Walk Bridge activity and turbidity curtains/physical barrier to prevent plume downriver. Sgt. LaPak suggested a boom with a screen affixed to the bridge. No news on where Walk Bridge barges are planning to anchor.

Commission review of a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Permit Consultation Form submitted by Mr. John Hilts on behalf of Mr. Ralph Peluso to construct a 4' by 74' piling-supported timber pier; install a 3' by 40' aluminum ramp, 10' by 16' timber floating dock, and two timber float anchor pilings at 30 Shorefront Park, Norwalk.

Motion by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner DeVito that work will adversely impact a shellfish area (Unanimous Vote) with the following comments:

- 1) **Propose pier length: ramp length ratio**
- 2) **Approximately 50 foot pier**
- 3) **Last pile pier just beyond spartina**
- 4) **Total length unchanged**
- 5) **Would then require 64 foot ramp**
- 6) **Winter removal**
- 7) **Dock stops**
- 8) **5 foot clearance**
- 9) **Would allow permanent waterward winter access to shoreline**

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush said the Shellfish Commission, in conjunction with the Harbor Management Commission, will draft a joint letter to Aquarion with concerns about the Cannondale Well Application.

Commissioner Bartush made a motion to draft letter to Aquarion with the Harbor Management Commission, second by Commissioner DeVito. Unanimous Vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commission went in to Executive Session at 8:20pm to discuss a dock application. Session ended at 8:40pm.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 3, 2019 @7:00pm Health Department Library.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner DeVito, second by Commissioner Bartush, Vote Unanimous 8:20 PM

Minutes by Thomas Closter