

**CITY OF NORWALK
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2022**

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference

ATTENDANCE: Steve Bartush, Chair; Jonathan Pageler, Nicholas Sacchinelli

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department; Jim Bajek; Geoff Steadman,
Sgt. Busceglie, Norwalk Marine Police Capt. Tim Pramer

This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bartush called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The roll was called. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2022**

**** MR. PAGELER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2022
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one from the public who wished to address the Commission at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Mooney then presented his report to the Commissioners and said it was the same as last month.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was no report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports

A) Health Department – Mr. Mooney updated the Commission on the amount of rainfall as follows: October 3.02 inches of rain; in October 2021 there was 1.16 inches. Historically it is 3.52 inches for October. There were three closures: November 11th, 16th and 27th. There were no bypasses for the month.

B) Wastewater Treatment Plant – No report.

C) Water Quality— Mr. Bartush said that there was a report that the water emergency was still in effect because the rainfall was 13 1/2 inches below average. There were also discussions of marine commercial issue, the Eversource, the artificial turf fields, PFAS and PFOS, along with the Save the Sound grading of state of the upper Harbor. Mr. Steadman said that there would a written report presented to the administration in January. Discussion followed.

D) Permits – Mr. Bartush said that Mr. Mooney was looking into the amount of maps. He said that often people go to the Fisherman World right after the new year for their permits.

E) Police – Sgt. Busceglie said that not many people were out on the water. Mr. Steadman said that Harbor Master Lavallo had been speaking with the ACOE recently about visiting the Walk Bridge to review the upcoming plans. Sgt. Busceglie said that the Marine Police would be happy to provide water transport if needed.

F) Advisory – Captain Pramer said that the water temperature was still in the 50's which low in the Harbor.

G) Harbor Management — Mr. Steadman gave a brief summary of the joint Shellfish and Harbor Management with Eversource about the electrical cable that will run under the Norwalk River and will be under the Veterans Park visitors' dock. He said that Eversource needs a variety of approvals from various entities.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS AS READ.**

**** MR. PAGELER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS READ PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

Roton Point Association – Mr. Bajek said he had spoken with the client and that the Association was concerned about making it safer. The tide moves the sand around and the children have slipped and a few of them have been hurt. They tried to use plywood, which didn't work. The ramp is too short and at times, it was too dangerous. The area is too high energy to have a live sand beach there. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bartush said that he could not support paving a sub tidal zone. He said that there was a live sand beach at Calf Pasture by the old sailing school and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Mr. Bajek said that they thought they would need another 48 feet to make it safe for the junior sailing school. Mr. Paegler said he would be willing to go to Calf Pasture to check it out before the next meeting.

2 Woodland Rd. – Mr. Bartush said that at the last meeting, there was an issue about a licensing number missing and the application was considered as incomplete. Mr. Bartush asked if the missing number could be added in. Mr. Bajek said that he could add the number.

Mr. Bajek said that while they were discussing this project with the DEEP, it was discovered that the 440 dock program was being regulated in an inconsistent way regarding tidal wetlands. DEEP has informed him that they can no longer file 440 dock applications with tidal wetlands. Now the applications must be filed individually. An additional DEEP letter has come out that would permit 440 docks under certain conditions. Mr. Bajek gave the details. This has changed the type of application that will be submitted. He will come back to the Commission with a 440 application next month.

3 Seabreeze – Mr. Bartush said that this was a simple application but one that could not have a site inspection done on it. Mr. Hilts was not in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Bartush asked the Commission if they wanted to let this application go forward while reserving their right of commentary. This was agreeable to all.

**** MR. PAGELER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR 3 SEABREEZE WHILE RESERVING THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION’S RIGHT OF COMMENTARY.**

**** MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS

The cost for the Shellfish and Harbor Master’s boat enclosure quote came to \$1,648.65. The Shellfish Commission usually shares half the cost. Mr. Bartek asked the Commission if this would be acceptable.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO APPROVE COVERING HALF THE COST OF THE SHELLFISH AND HARBOR MASTER’S BOAT ENCLOSURE QUOTE.**

**** MR. PAGELER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Bartush reported that the DEEP enforcement has issued an notice of violation to the Norwalk Yacht Club for discharging wastewater without a permit and additional paperwork insufficiency.

Walk Bridge – DOT – Discussed earlier.

Eversource – Discussed earlier.

26 Valley Rd. – No report.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2023 @ 7:15pm (Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO**

**** MR. PAGELER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services