

**CITY OF NORWALK
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 2 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Steve Bartush, Chair; Pete Johnson, Jonathan Pageler. Jordan Saxe, Nicholas Sacchinelli

OTHERS: William Mooney, Alan Kibbe, Harbor Commission; Sgt. Justin Bisceglia, John Hilts

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bartush called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The roll was called. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• October Meeting

There was no quorum for that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public wished to comment at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Mooney presented the Treasurer's Report. The current balance remains the same as last month, Mr. Mooney said that he had stopped by Fisherman's World. He said he believed that there would be more permits sold and noted they still had about 50 maps left. There are about 400 maps at the office, so there is no need to order more at this time.

Mr. Bartush said that if there were any changes to fees for recreational permitting, it should be discussed at this meeting or the next meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Bartush said that he would like to commend Joe Schnierlein for his long service to the City, both as a teacher and as Chair of the Water Quality Committee. The Chairmanship of the Water Quality Committee has been vacant for the last two months.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) Health Department – The October rainfall was 3.07 inches and last year was 5.43 and historically, it has been 4.60. There were no bypasses but there were four closures on October 7th, 14th, 20th and 29th.

B) Wastewater Treatment Plant – No report

C) Water Quality – No report

D) Permits – Discussed earlier.

E) Police -- Sgt. Bisceglia said that the waterfront has been quiet and the water temperature has been in the low 60's as the fall progresses into winter.

F) Advisory – Mr. Bartush thanked Copp's Island and Norman Bloom for population of the oyster beds. Mr. Johnson said that he had accompanied Mr. Bloom when he went out to release the seed oysters and a mixture of different types of clams.

Mr. Bloom was late in filing an application regarding the kelp and Mr. Johnson requested that the Shellfish Commission send some comments to Harbor Management about this.

G) Harbor Management – Mr. Kibbe said that he had the honor of attending the stakeholder's meeting for the Walk Bridge. Mitigation work at Wetland Site 2 has been completed along with several other sites along the river bank. The alternate dock area for the Maritime and Seaport Association boats has been dredged is being prepared for the temporary docks..

**** MR. JOHNSON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS AS PRESENTED.**

**** MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

• 17 Sylvester Court

Mr. Bartush said that with everything that was happening in town, he felt that it would be best to delay this item. He said that the site has been inspected.

Mr. Bartush said that last month, they had discussed the standard language and plug cutting in the footprint of the piles for transplantation. Mr. Hilts noted that there were some pathways through the vegetation .

**** MR. PAGELER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR 17 SYLVESTER COURT.**

**** MR. JOHNSON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Norwalk Seaport Association/COP: Sheffield Island North Shore Sea Wall

NEW BUSINESS

Sheffield Island/LWRD Application – No discussion at this time.

• 18 Tonetta Circle –

Mr. Hilts spoke about the 440 dock and noted that one of the neighbors had petitioned to get a longer dock, installed it and then sold the property. He noted that the harder surface is closer to the current location. They are asking to extend the 9 foot pier to 60 feet. The current dock is not anywhere near the mean low water line. A discussion followed about the details of the proposed dock.

The Commission decided that they would visit the site.

The discussion moved to an expired permit for Mr. Bloom. Mr. Hilts said he had submitted a certificate of permission application at the direction of the DEEP. This will reinstate the activity at the formerly authorized location.

Mr. Hilts said that John Paul Vilotti had a permit for two locations measuring 450 feet by 600 feet with eight strings each. Mr. Vilotti did not send an email to the DEEP requesting an additional five year permit. The subsequent submission of an application for a new permit has been sent in. The DEEP must approve the new application. Shellfish approval covers the aquaculture aspect of the project and this will cover the hardware issue. Mr. Johnson has a copy of a letter of support for Harbor Management,.

Mr. Bartush asked the Commissioners if they saw any difference between the previous application and the new one.

**** MR. PAGELER MOVED TO SEND THE LETTER OF SUPPORT TO HARBOR MANAGEMENT.**

**** MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Pageler asked if there was anything that they should expect on Manresa Island. Mr. Bartush said that they would be involved and that there were recreational beds.

Mr. Bartush said that Mr. Mooney had researched holding a holiday event and suggested that the Commissioners consider December 4th, 5th and/or 6th at the Holiday Inn. There is also the possibility of gathering at the Ischoda Boat Club. Mr. Bartush said that they had held the meeting at these events in the past. This was agreeable to all.

Next Meeting – December 7, 2023 @ 7:15pm (Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. JOHNSON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services.