

PAGE 1 OF 4

City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting October 4, 2018 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Steven Kvance, Pete Johnson

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police:

Advisory:

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

September Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Bartush, 2nd by Comm. Kvance.

Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

Comm. DeVito absent, no report:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		7/31/18	\$25,238.80	

DEPOSIT

INTEREST

EXPENSES

BALANCE		8/31/18	\$24,564.02
	Last Year	8/31/17	\$21,243.55
	Two Years Ago	8/31/16	\$18,629.92

SECRETARY

Commissioner Johnson had no report.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

13.24 inches of rain in September. Average since 1987 is 4.72 inches of rain for

PAGE 2 OF 4

September. There were 977 calls in September. There were three closures for Cooke's Ground for over .5 inch, the CAA (1-1.49 inches), and the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches) on September 10, 18 & 25, 2018.

There were several reports of a bypass for September 25, 2018

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

- 1) Held meeting prior to the Shellfish Commission Meeting. Chairman Schnierlein said there needs to be an accurate environmental impact statement specific for Norwalk, and involve DEEP and local experts.
- 2) John Romano discussed the meeting with Eversource and his concerns. Eversource is not doing what they said they would and Mayor's Water Quality Committee, Harbor Management Commission and the Shellfish Commission does not support current proposal. The Mayor should not sign off on proposal. A letter should be drafted to the Common Council to table pending Eversource Project until new presentation showing alternate routes. John also stated a grant from the State or Eversource, as much as \$250,000, is needed for equipment and consultants to monitor water quality during the Walk Bridge replacement. John also asked if anyone was aware of the current construction on Manresa.
- 3) Chairman Schnierlein said monitoring stations upstream and downstream from the proposed bridge work should be set up at least a year before construction to monitor what is normal before work commences. These stations could cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 and ideally measure the surface water as well as the bottom water which would require a minimum of 4 stations. Monitoring should include dissolved oxygen, salinity, turbidity, and nitrogen and be continuous 24/7. Sampling for lead, mercury, PCB's and carcinogens should be done during and after sediments have been disturbed. This testing must be done in a lab that has the equipment to do so. The monitoring and sampling should be done by an outside agency, University, or non-profit organization. There should be protective measures ready to be used should large schools of fish, specifically menhaden (bunker), be migrating into the harbor and up river during times when work might exceed 150 to 190 decibels as this might kill the fish.

PERMITS

Commissioner DeVito absent, no report.

POLICE

Sgt. LaPak absent but sent report, 12 hours of patrol for September, no arrests. One verbal warning for clamming during closure.

ADVISORY

Water temperature reported at 65 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

See New Business

PAGE 3 OF 4

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

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush said the John Frank Memorial unveiling was well received and the family was very pleased.

Commission is currently analyzing data received from Christopher W. Samorajczyk, Transportation Planner II from the Office of Environmental Planning and Bureau of Policy & Planning regarding sediment from the Norwalk River and Wetland Mitigation Area for the Walk Bridge Reconstruction.

Commission received a DEEP Permit Consultation Form from the Greens Ledge Light Preservation Society to install a dock. After discussion, the Shellfish Commission has concerns that the proposed location is on or near local State leased shellfish beds, and the wooden structure would be drastically underbuilt due to extreme local conditions. Commission received a modified plan to place dock on north side. Shellfish Commission needs written confirmation from leased bed owners and the State for approval of new dock location not impacting shellfish beds. Also discussed concerns of improper disposal of construction debris.

Motion made by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Kvance to not approve application because it does not meet shellfish concerns and may adversely impact a shellfish area. Unanimous Vote.

Commissioner Bartush discussed a cease and desist request to DEEP for work performed under a Certificate of Permission at 26 Shorefront Park jetty. Unpermitted lengthening of the jetty by riprap rock and concrete has covered the natural bed under its new and longer footprint.

Kevin Zawoy and Brian Thompson from DEEP has sent a notice of violation to the Contractor and Homeowners to:

Stop work and immediately submit the required work commencement form, address the unauthorized placement of stone at the site, within 30 calendar days submit a removal plan to bring the site back into compliance with the COP, submit a permit application to seek authorization to retain the work completed at the site out of compliance with the issued COP including removal of the two large stones from the tidal wetlands and submit a compliance statement identifying which action you are proposing to take to bring the site into compliance.

NEW BUSINESS

Geoff Steadman discussed a proposed scope of work for a project to identify potential water quality impacts that may be associated with the Connecticut Department of Transportation Walk Bridge Project and to recommend measures, including monitoring protocols, to mitigate those impacts on the Norwalk River and Harbor. The proposed scope of work shall not exceed \$5,000 and will be shared equally by the Harbor Management Commission and the Shellfish Commission.

Motion made by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Kvance to support proposal presented by Geoff Steadman. Unanimous Vote.

Commissioner Bartush has formally submitted comments to the TMDL Watershed Summary document for Norwalk.

PAGE 4 OF 4

Motion made by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Kvance to draft a letter with the Harbor Management Commission and the Mayor's Water Quality Committee to not support the current measure proposed from Eversource and urge no action be taken from the Common Council and Mayor until such time as Eversource meets with Commissions with new proposal showing alternative routes. Vote Unanimous.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 1, 2018 @7:00pm Health Department Library.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Kvance, second by Commissioner Bartush, Vote Unanimous 8:03 PM

Minutes by Thomas Closter