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City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting August 1, 2019 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:09 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Tom Mattera

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police: Officer Dave Vetare

Advisory: None

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, John Hanifin, Tony Mobilia, Geoff Steadman, Chris Samorajczyk, Deborah Goldstein

PUBLIC COMMENT

DOT representatives John Hanifin and Chris Samorajczyk reviewed plans for the six wetland mitigation areas that will take place under the Walk Bridge Project. Items discussed were phragmites treatment and grading and planting plans. They described work for the construction of a tidal wetland creation area, tidal restoration area, tidal enhancement area (mitigation), turtle nesting habitat area or living shoreline area. They explained the work generally consists of excavating, backfilling, furnishing material and preparing appropriate Site grades under the direction of an Environmental Scientist from the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Office of Environmental Planning. Commission Members asked questions about barge locations, timelines, water quality monitoring, Eversource's alternative routes and turbidity curtain anchorage. Concerns expressed were regarding approving permit plates where some determinations have not been made final and receiving confirmation in writing on important issues like dredging to be done only on a slack or incoming tide.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

August Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Mattera, 2nd by Comm. Bartush. Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

There was no report.

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		4/30/19	\$23,163.29	
DEPOSIT			\$	
INTEREST			\$	
EXPENSES				
BALANCE		5/31/19	\$23,090.67	
	Last Year	5/31/18	\$22,220.78	

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Two Years Ago

5/31/17

\$19,960.49

SECRETARY

Chairman Johnson has no report.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

8.49 inches of rain in July. Average since 1987 is 3.45 inches of rain for July. There were 1,607 calls in July. There were three closures for Cooke's Ground for over 0.5 inch on July 12, 17, & 22, 2019. There were two closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) on July 17 & 22, 2019 and two closures in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches) on July 17 & 22, 2019. There were two reports of a bypass for July. One on July 18, 2019 at 60 South Smith St for storm flow procedures (5.04 inches of rain, 320,000 gallons). The second was also at 60 South Smith St on July 22, 2019 for storm flow procedures (1.55 inches of rain, 110,000 gallons).

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Joe Schnierlein reports that Director of Health Deanna D'Amore presented on Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Ms. D'Amore gave an overview of what PFAS is and uses of PFAS. Ms. D'Amore showed a map of contamination in the US from the Environmental Working Group and went into detail to explain PFAS and drinking water standards. She explained the EPA guidelines and the CT Department of Public Health guidance. She also explained what the State of CT is doing to address PFAS. Ms. D'Amore reviewed the health effects known about PFAS. First Taxing Water Department staff provided an overview of their testing for the group of chemicals and how they have addressed detecting low levels within their water supply. Questions were answered regarding other water districts, (SNEW & Aquarion), types and methodology of sampling and treatment systems.

PERMITS

No report.

POLICE

No report.

ADVISORY

Water temperature not reported.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

No Report

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

OLD BUSINESS

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52 Shorefront Park – DEEP Permit Consultation Form received from Mr. Franklin Tuck to construct a 4' by 94' piling supported timber pier that includes a 7' by 14' pier head.

Motion by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Mattera, based on Commission Members site inspection, the proposal will adversely affect a shellfish bed area, however, no current objection to moving forward to a formal full application with the following contingencies:

Pier needs to be 7' high at its bottom to clear Northern edge of *Spartina*, this would also give the required 5' ROW clearance.

Recommending 250 sq. ft. *Spartina* remediation based on doubling the piles and dock area to be disturbed.

Recommending same "L" shaped configuration, but with waterward terminus of dock (not pier) at *Spartina* edge.

Winter removal of lift mechanism extending waterward from dock required for permanent shoreline seed oyster access.

Boats should only be allowed beyond *Spartina* and with above configuration.

No structure or vessel may rest on the bottom at low tide.

Only the specified Zodiac-type vessel dockage. Any other vessel must be smaller.

Full application and DEEP approval should consider multiple neighbors' approval in writing due to significant sightline disruption.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Mattera to approve and transfer \$3,000 to support the Water Quality interns. Vote Unanimous

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 5, 2019 @7:00pm Health Department.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Mattera, second by Commissioner Bartush, Vote Unanimous 9:40 PM

Minutes by Thomas Closter