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City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting June 6, 2019 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:05 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Nick Sacchinelli, Tom Mattera

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police: Officer Dave Vetare

Advisory: Captain Dave Hopp

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Tim Pramer, Diane Lauricella, Geoff Steadman, Adam Fox, John Hanifan, Lauren DiGiovanni, Julie Georges, Chris Samorajczyk, Chet Muckenheim, Christian Brown

PUBLIC COMMENT

DOT representatives gave a project overview and update of the Walk Bridge Project. Discussions centered on turbidity monitoring, final dredging spoils haul-out locations, work barge stationing, possible Eversource river crossing alignments and low salt marsh remediation plans.

Turbidity Monitoring – Monitoring stations were operational April 6, 2019 in three locations. Parameters are for turbidity, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and ph. Currently performing pre-construction baseline monitoring. Corrective actions include inspection, identify source, adjust construction activities, document adjustment and reporting during weekly meetings.

Sediment Haul-out Locations and Dewatering Program – Showed map of haul-out locations east of Walk Bridge. CTDEEP General Permit for the Discharge of Groundwater Remediation Wastewater.

Briefly discussed Eversource Alignment Opportunities

In-water protection Measures – Turbidity Curtains & Monitoring, Time of Year Restrictions, soft starts, maintain one navigational channel

Wetland Mitigation Sites – discussed areas for phragmites treatment and shrub planting, intertidal habitat and tidal marsh remediation and spartina alterniflora marsh restoration.

Barge Mooring Locations – showed four possible sites, Shellfish Harvesters objected to Sheffield Island Bay site because it is a natural and seed bed.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

May Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Mattera, 2nd by Comm. Sacchinelli. Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

Comm. DeVito absent but the following report was read into the record:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		4/30/19	\$23,163.29	
DEPOSIT	Town of Westport		\$ 72.84	Phone Share

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INTEREST

\$

EXPENSES	Frontier	4/19 to 5/18	(\$ 72.62)	Phone
	Frontier	5/19 to 6/18	(\$ 72.84)	Phone

BALANCE		5/31/19	\$23,090.67
	Last Year	5/31/18	\$22,220.78
	Two Years Ago	5/31/17	\$19,960.49

SECRETARY

Chairman Johnson has no report.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

6.72 inches of rain in May. Average since 1987 is 4.44 inches of rain for May. There were 410 calls in May. There were five closures for Cooke's Ground for over 0.5 inch on May 5, 12, 13, 29 & 30, 2019. There were three closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) on May 5, 12 & 29, 2019 and one closure in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches) on May 12, 2019.

There were no reports of a bypass for May.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Joe Schnierlein reports that the Mayor's Water Quality Committee discussed the Long Island Sound Blue Plan. The purpose of the Blue Plan is to protect traditional uses, minimize conflicts and maximize compatibility. The plan will have an impact on Harbor Commissions and water less than 10 feet deep as well as navigational channels. It will not have any impact on Shellfish Commissions. Also discussed issues with a discharge pipe on Reed St that is providing a plume of silt and sediments into the Norwalk River, possibly coming from the Mall site and a drainage pipe at 6 Nathan Hale Rd that dumps directly in to the waters of the State of Ct.

Also discussed the water quality monitors installed by the Department of Transportation at the Police Dock and how to review the data.

PERMITS

Commissioner DeVito absent, no report.

POLICE

Officer Vetare reports very little activity as a result of all the rain recently.

ADVISORY

Water temperature reported at 63 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Geoff Steadman has no report.

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

OLD BUSINESS

26 Shorefront Park – no news

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 to table application pending a site visit. Unanimous Vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush mentioned that Hawaii just voted to ban sunscreen that harms coral and he will do more research on the subject.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 11, 2019 @7:00pm Health Department.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Sacchinelli, second by Commissioner Bartush, Vote Unanimous 8:47 PM

Minutes by Thomas Closter