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City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting May 2, 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: Tony Mobilia, Joe Schnierlein, Tim Pramer, Diane Lauricella, Geoff Steadman, John Romano, Jim Bajek, Pat Tomlinson, Brendan McGee

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Bajek and Brendan McGee representing the Greens Ledge Light Preservation Society presented revised plans regarding repairs and improvements to the Greens Ledge Light (GLL) with the dock entirely north facing.

Commissioner Bartush made a motion to accept plan as long as all vessels approach from the east side, and piles will be hollow steel. Project will not adversely impact a shellfish area. Motion second by Commissioner Mattera. Unanimous Vote.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

April Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Bartush, 2nd by Comm. Sacchinelli. Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

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

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		3/31/19	\$23,934.67	
DEPOSIT	Norm Bloom & Sons		\$1,000.00	Drone Donation
	Pramer Oyster		\$ 18.50	Seed
INTEREST			\$	
EXPENSES	Drone Purchase		(\$1,861.88)	

BALANCE		3/31/19	\$23,091.29
	Last Year	3/31/18	\$22,285.72
	Two Years Ago	3/31/17	\$19,730.61

SECRETARY

Chairman Johnson welcomed new Commissioner Tom Mattera.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

5.80 inches of rain in April. Average since 1987 is 4.17 inches of rain for April. There were 189 calls in April. There were four closures for Cooke's Ground for over 0.5 inch on April 12, 15, 20 & 26, 2019. There were two closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) on April 20 & 26, 2019 and one closure in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches) on April 26, 2019.

There was one bypass report on April 4, 2019 at Sheehan Ave for roots blocking a sewer line with an estimated volume of between 50 and 500 gallons.

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. Committee will look into whether it will be a benefit to municipalities, legislative history, and intent and is it needed? Also discussed the water quality monitors installed by the Department of Transportation at the Police Dock and how to review the data. He also would like a list of pesticides in use by City Departments and to find out when and where they are used.

PERMITS

Commissioner DeVito absent, no report.

POLICE

Officer Vetare reports all Police boats are in the water and the Division will have a fourth member soon.

ADVISORY

Water temperature reported at 50 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Geoff Steadman reported the Harbor Management Commission is not in favor of Eversource's proposal for the transmission cables. He said there is not enough information regarding restrictions and limitations that will be put on the visitor's dock and further discussion is needed regarding alternate routes and providing a risk assessment.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Walk Bridge Project – DOT will attend next Shellfish Meeting.

Commission talked about the Eversource transmission cable project. No alternative routes have been provided, no risk analysis, no discussion on a cut and cover method, and no update on the compromised ecological report.

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Motion from Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Sacchinelli to find the Eversource transmission cable application will adversely impact shellfish resources. Unanimous Vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Norwalk Cove Marina is proposing to extend and reconfigure its existing South Dock to support additional boat slips for public rental. The activity will not require any sediment and erosion control measures or turbidity control measures.

Motion by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Sacchinelli to approve application as submitted. It will not adversely impact a shellfish area. Unanimous Vote.

Kristin DeRosia-Banick from the Bureau of Aquaculture has provided updates to the shellfish related layers on the Aquaculture Mapping Atlas. Changes were made to the aquaculture operations layers, shellfish classifications, shellfish and seaweed beds, and sampling station layers.

Dick Harris is looking for support. He has funding opportunities through Connecticut Sea Grant. He has had conversations with Norwalk's Water Pollution Control Authority regarding their wish list, including a new camera truck, and pipe improvements at Marvin Beach and Belle Island. He feels these improvements will decrease shoreline pollution and would like support for the grant.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 6, 2019 @7:00pm Health Department.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Sacchinelli, second by Commissioner Bartush, Vote Unanimous 8:29 PM

Minutes by Thomas Closter