

**CITY OF NORWALK
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 6, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Steve Bartush, Chair; Jonathan Pageler, Nicholas Sacchinelli

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department; Joseph Schnierlein, Water Quality Advisory Chair; Alan Kibbe, Harbor Management Chair, Sgt. Busceglie, Norwalk Marine Police; Geoff Steadman, Harbor Commission Consultant
Tim DeBartolomeo, Sound Engineering Associates

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bartush called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The roll was called. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

• March 2, 2023 meeting

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2023 MEETING.**

**** MR. PAGELER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one from the public in attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Mooney presented the treasurer's report. There were bills presented including the Silvermine Press bills for a total of \$1,175.00. The current balance is \$28,037.50.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) **Health Department** – Mr. Mooney said that the rainfall for March was 4.55. In March 2022, it was 2.80. Historically it is 4.11. While there were no bypasses, there was an exceedance notification issue on March 22nd. Mr. Mooney reviewed the details and said that Aquaculture was notified. Mr. Mooney will follow up with more details next month.

B) **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – No report.

C) **Water Quality** – Mr. Schnierlein said that the primary focus of their most recent meeting was on PFOS and PFAS. Mr. Harris and Ms. Washer were able to raise funds from Mr. Bloom and the Norwalk River Watershed Association to pay for PFAS testing for the Norwalk River and many of the tributaries including Wilton and the reservoirs. There have been no warning issued to the Norwalk residents about using charcoal filters for PFAS in the drinking water. Information has been sent to the administration and local politicians.

Mr. Schnierlein also informed the Commissioners that they had heard from the individual who would be doing Harbor soil sample testing and there are going to be more test bores that the Committee and the Commissioners were originally told.

D) **Permits** – Mr. Bartush said that the permits were available at Fisherman's World and at Liberty Square in Norwalk.

E) **Police** – Sgt. Busceglie said that it has remained quiet on the Harbor, but he expects more activity in the coming week.

F) **Advisory** – It was stated that a recent water temp was about 44 degrees.

G) **Harbor Management** – Mr. Kibbe thanked the Shellfish Commission for their recent joint meeting to discuss Eversource. He said that there had been concerns about the relocation of the transition lines. These concerns were compiled into a letter which was sent to the Siting Council and a very nice reply has been received informing them that the Siting Council would be including them on the agenda to discuss the possibility of holding a public hearing to evaluate the proposed project next week. Discussion followed about the fact that the Harbor Commission had not been notified that an application had been submitted to the Siting Council.

Mr. Steadman said that a recommendation has been submitted to the Siting Council about a binding agreement between Eversource and the City of Norwalk that the City would not be limited in the future if the City finds they need to repair, replace or enhance the Visitor's Dock

and/or the launching ramp. He added that if there were added expenses if the transmission lines had to be moved or something similar, that the City would be compensated for it.

Mr. Steadman noted that on the Siting Council website, there was a long list of thoughtful questions for additional information from Eversource.

**** MR. PAGELER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS READ.**

**** MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

Walk Bridge – DOT—This was just discussed.

Eversource —This was just discussed.

Roton Point Association – No report

NEW BUSINESS

- **18 Burwell Street** – Mr. Tim DeBartolomeo, of the Sound Engineering Associates was present to discuss the project to the Commissioners. He said that it was a private residential dock. He displayed a number of documents for the project on the screen including the Tax Assessor's map. There had been an unauthorized dock on the property and the DEEP requested that the dock be removed immediately. The previous dock had been in poor condition and a notice of violation had been issued. It was also discovered that the seawall did not have a permit associated with it and was unauthorized. The replacement pier will be 62 feet long with a 32 foot long gangway leading to an 8' x 12 ½' dock to allow them to be up and over the tidal wetlands. Mr. DeBartolomeo said that they would also like to increase the height of the seawall to bring them up to grade with the existing backyard. He then reviewed the details of the structures with the Commissioners.

Mr. Bartush asked if there would be room for a barge to get in to drive the piles. Mr. DeBartolomeo said that Mr. Wetmore would most likely be the person constructing this and once the piles are in, the rest would be pre-fabricated.

Mr. Bartush asked about the eradication of phragmites. Mr. DeBartolomeo said that there was about 770 feet of phragmites that would be eradicated. He said that they would be open to whatever method would have the least impact of removing the plants. They will check with the DEEP about their preferred method and will also consider the Shellfish Commission's suggestion.

Mr. Bartush said that they would like to have a site visit. Mr. Bartush said that he would like to have this up for a vote at the May meeting.

Mr. Schnierlein said that the Aspetuck Land Management Trust had the DEEP remove some phragmites from a salt marsh. He said that they had mowed it one summer and then mowed it again before treating it with a herbicide. Within two years there were spartina patents growing in the area. Fiddler crabs and great egrets and herons moved in. The critical factor is mowing it before the phragmites bear seed. Discussion followed.

Mr. Steadman said that the Harbor Commission should have been notified when the violation was issued.

- Kelp Farm, Norm Bloom – No report.

Next Meeting – May 4, 2023 @ 7:15pm (Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. PAGELER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services