

**City of Norwalk
Shellfish Commission Meeting
March 7, 2019
Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Pat DeVito, Steve Kvance

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police: Sgt. Pete LaPak

Advisory: Capt. Dave Hopp

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Tony Mobilia, Chris Samorajczyk, John Hanifin, , Sue Prosi, Diane Lauricella, John Crespo, Chet Muckenhirn, Jeff Roia, Julie Georges, Adam Fox, Lauren DiGovanni, Tim Pettee, Alex Pettee, Brendan McGee, Frank Mullaney, Pat Tomlinson, John Romano, Christian Brown, Mitch Palais

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christian Brown, Chris Samorajczyk, and John Hanifin from CTDOT gave a project overview and update of the Walk Bridge. They reviewed permit plates for construction activities. Topics covered were:

- 1) Marine Staging Yard
- 2) Duct Bank Installation
- 3) Water Quality Monitoring Program
- 4) Sediment Dewatering Program
- 5) Wetland Mitigation
- 6) Wetland Mitigation Protective Measures

They identified where the marine staging yard will be and dredging activities associated with it.

Presentation and discussion took place regarding the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method and the risks associated with it, (constructability, schedule, local impact, cost and environmental were all part of the risk analysis). They discussed a Cut and Cover method utilizing sheeting and turbidity curtains, segmentation of waterway and channel hydraulics. This method will minimize all of the aforementioned risks. Duct Bank next steps will be to finalize alignment and impact values, update the hydraulic model and assess the mitigation areas.

They then provided a summary of the in-water protective measures including turbidity curtains and monitoring, time of year restrictions, use of soft starts and maintaining one navigation channel. The use of bubble curtains will be eliminated due to soil conditions.

DOT will develop a water quality monitoring program including pre-construction baseline monitoring and construction monitoring both north and south of the bridge. Monitoring parameters will include turbidity, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and pH.

The sediment dewatering program will comply with CTDEEP's general permit for the discharge of brownwater remediation wastewater.

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DOT discussed the wetland mitigation locations and protective measures including turbidity curtains and monitoring, work only above tide cycle and all temporary construction access restored to pre-construction conditions.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

February Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Bartush, 2nd by Comm. DeVito. Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

Comm. DeVito reports:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		1/31/19	\$24,958.35	
DEPOSIT				
INTEREST			\$ 0.00	
EXPENSES	Frontier	2/19 to 3/18	(\$ 72.84)	Phone
BALANCE		2/28/19		\$24,885.51
	Last Year	2/28/18		\$22,181.66
	Two Years Ago	2/28/17		\$19,390.79

SECRETARY

Commission has completed a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Permit Consultation Form submitted by Mr. John Hilts on behalf of Mr. Ralph Peluso to construct a 4' by 64' piling-supported timber pier; install a 3' by 40' aluminum ramp, 10' by 16' timber floating dock, and two timber float anchor pilings at 30 Shorefront Park, Norwalk. Work described will adversely impact a shellfish area but to mitigate damage to the natural shellfish bed the following conditions are recommended:

- 64' Pier, as such the last waterward pile pair is beyond the local Spartina peat/bog
- 111' total encroachment
- 40' long aluminum ramp with winter removal and offsite storage
- 10 x 16' floating dock with winter removal and offsite storage
- 18" float stops
- 5' right-of-way head clearance below pier, just below MHW

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

3.08 inches of rain in February. Average since 1987 is 2.90 inches of rain for February. There were 130 calls in February. There were three closures for Cooke's Ground for over .5 inch on February 12, 20 & 24, 2019. There were no closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) and CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches) in February.

There was one report of a bypass for February 14, 2019 at 261 Ely Ave. A contractor compromised the sewer manhole that caused a by-pass of 4,500 gallons.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein reports that the Mayor's Water Quality Committee discussed a Buck Scientific report about the high concentrations of lead near the Walk Bridge. DOT was driving some piles and that may have affected the samples. They are a local Lab that was likely trying out new equipment and are not certified. Dick Harris runs a certified Lab and will be performing outsourced tests on March 8, 2019. He will be testing at nine different locations for Arsenic, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Nickel and Zinc. Committee also discussed Aquarion's informational meeting in Wilton on February 26, 2019 and possible funding opportunities for testing and monitoring equipment.

PERMITS

Commissioner DeVito stated all new permits and tide calendars are in place but there is no activity because of the weather.

POLICE

Sgt. LaPak reports 6 hours of patrol, no arrests, no violations and no recreational activity. Officer Silva is utilizing an intern to update signage at Calf Pasture.

ADVISORY

Water temperature reported at 32 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Tony Mobilia presented an invoice from Professor Tom Hart for \$1,800 dollars for advisory services regarding monitoring activity for the Walk Bridge Project. Harbor Management Commission will share the invoice with the Shellfish Commission.

Motion made by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Johnson to pay half of the invoice. Vote Unanimous.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Tim Pettee and Frank Mullaney, representing the Greens Ledge Light Preservation Society, talked with John Gaucher, Land & Water Resources Division, DEEP, regarding repairs and improvements to the Greens Ledge Light (GLL). Letters have been received from Norman Bloom and Sons, Inc. (lease area #482 East) and Hillard Bloom Shellfish, Inc. (lease area #482 West) stating they have no objections to the proposed dock work. This proposed dock work is in the NE quadrant and not in the lee of GLL. Commissioner Bartush stated the dock should be entirely north facing. After discussion, Tim Pettee and Frank Mullaney will modify design to present at next Shellfish Meeting to reflect a more northerly position of the dock, as well as steel pilings and davits to lift dock.

Commission discussed the Consultation Revision for a 4/40 permit submitted by John Hilts on behalf of Francis Piantidosi to install a landing, ramp and floating dock in the Five Mile River at 197 Rowayton Ave. Concerns are that although the dock will not be on grounds prohibited for shellfish harvesting this area has been indicated as a Shellfish habitat tract since 1882. Consultation Form has been submitted.

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NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Bartush will be meeting with the City Corporation Counsel's office to discuss a possible new ordinance or regulation for new local wording for docks. If *Spartina* exists, build to just beyond where *Spartina* ends. If there is no *Spartina*, forty foot maximum.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 4, 2019 @7:00pm Health Department.

**ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Kvance, second by Commissioner Bartush,
Vote Unanimous 9:23 PM**

Minutes by Thomas Closter