

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

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Pat DeVito

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police: Officer Michael Silva

Advisory: Capt. Dave Hopp

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Tony Mobilia, Chris Samorajczyk, John Hanifin, , Sue Prosi, Debora Goldstein, Diane Lauricella, John Crespo, Chet Muckenhirn, Jeff Roia, Julie Georges, Denise Young, Adam Fox, Tony D’Andrea, Lauren DiGiovanni, Evan Piacente, Rich Coppa, Kate Shanley, Marcia Wellman, Matthew Davison

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eversource passed out an underground route map for the CP-241 Walk Bridge Replacement Project and Circuits 1028 and 1146 Re-route. Evan Piacente talked about the proposed horizontal directional drill crossing below the Norwalk River. The route selection criteria included electric reliability, environmental and social impacts, constructability considerations and cost. The route would extend below the Norwalk River between the shorelines of 90 Water Street and Veteran’s Memorial Park. The nearest point of the transmission cables to the existing dock pilings would be located approximately eight to nine vertical feet and approximately 10 radial feet away.

Shellfish concerns were future impacts to the Veteran’s Dock and why there are no route alternatives being presented. Evan Piacente claimed there will be no alternative routes presented unless required by the Connecticut Siting Council.

Matthew Davison of Eversource then stated there was no submerged aquatic vegetation present within the Norwalk River in the vicinity of the horizontal directional drill crossing. He detailed a Kleinschmidt Associates Benthic Macroinvertebrate Study of the area which indicated low species diversity and a stressed condition. Commissioner Bartush asked if he was aware of any bivalve activity and after receiving “no” for an answer, showed a slide of an active oyster reef near the Visitor’s Dock in the immediate underground path of the twin 115kV cables.

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

- 1) Dredging Permit Plates
- 2) Dredging Protective Measures
- 3) Water Quality Monitoring Program
- 4) Sediment Dewatering Program
- 5) Wetland Mitigation
- 6) Wetland Mitigation Protective Measures

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7) Preliminary Barge Mooring

Shellfish concerns were:

- Work to be done only on incoming tides
- Methodology for Water Quality Monitoring
- Status of Third Party Water Quality Monitoring
- Post Construction Monitoring
- Allowable NTUs
- Contingency Bubble Curtains
- Tide Reversal Curtain Failure Prevention
- Phragmites Treatment and Spartina Restoration
- Work Barge Stationing

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

TREASURER

Comm. DeVito reports:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		12/31/18	\$25,358.85	
DEPOSIT	Pramer Oyster	1/7/19	\$ 46.50	Seed Oyster
	Pramer Oyster	1/8/19	\$ 233.50	Seed Oyster
	Town of Westport	1/15/19	\$ 72.84	Phone
INTEREST		Dec	\$ 42.00	
EXPENSES	Frontier	1/19 to 2/18	(\$ 72.84)	Phone
	Silvermine Press		(\$ 442.00)	Permits
	Silvermine Press		(\$ 258.50)	Calendars
	Ct Sea Grant		(\$ 75.00)	Meeting
BALANCE		1/31/19		\$24,905.35
	Last Year	1/31/18		\$23,020.50
	Two Years Ago	1/31/17		\$18,984.67

SECRETARY

Commissioner Johnson stated that the Marine Division is looking into the purchase of a drone. The cost would be shared by the Harbor Commission and the Shellfish Commission.

Commission reviewed 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'

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by 16' timber floating dock, and two timber float anchor pilings at 30 Shorefront Park, Norwalk. One additional measurement is required for final consultation passage.

James Bajek, representing the Greens Ledge Light Preservation Society, has 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. The lessee's letters indicated this position, not a Northerly position.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

5.25 inches of rain in January. Average since 1987 is 3.18 inches of rain for January.

There were 144 calls in January. There were three closures for Cooke's Ground for over .5 inch on January 5, 20 & 24, 2019. There were two closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) on January 20 & 24, 2019 and two closures in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches) on January 20 & 24, 2019

There was one report of a bypass for January 24, 2019. Heavy rain conditions (1.75 inches of rain) at 60 South Smith St caused storm flow procedures. By-Pass of 880,000 gallons.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein sent report that the Mayor's Water Quality Committee discussed Bob Duff's proposal to convert Calf Pasture Beach to a Wildlife Refuge. Committee, along with Shellfish Commission, oppose the act. He was pleased that DOT has committed to doing real time monitoring for turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and salinity via an outside contractor for the Walk Bridge Project. Other discussions were about Green Infrastructures, the Norwalk River Initiative, and funding opportunities.

PERMITS

Commissioner DeVito stated new permits and tide calendars were printed and distributed for 2019.

POLICE

Officer Silva reports 20 hours of patrol, no arrests, no violations and no recreational activity.

ADVISORY

Water temperature reported at 35 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

No Report.

Motion to accept committee reports by Commissioner DeVito, second by

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Commissioner Johnson. Commissioner Bartush abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

Commission will see if Eversource will indicate if a new Benthic Macroinvertebrate Study will be provided.

Shellfish Commission, along with Harbor Management Commission, will submit a letter to the Planning Commission regarding the Plan of Conservation & Development and how Shellfish conservation is not mentioned in the document.

Shellfish Commission has identified for prioritization three shellfish restoration areas for State prioritization. Area 1 – Between Manresa, Hoyt and Cedar Hammock Islands. Area 2 – Southern tip of Veterans' Memorial Park. Area 3 – Western shore of Five Mile River, North of Butler's Creek. Five Mile River Commission supported this identification.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush discussed Manresa Island plans and would like to see potential uses like a cartop launch marina, marine school, police dock or keep existing stack to incorporate an iconic artistic design.

Commission discussed 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 be on grounds prohibited for shellfish harvesting this area has been indicated as a Shellfish habitat tract since 1882, signatures missing on documents and position float stops are outside thalweg.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner DeVito, second by Commissioner Bartush, Vote Unanimous 9:25 PM

Minutes by Thomas Closter