

**CITY OF NORWALK
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
February 2, 2023**

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference

ATTENDANCE: Steve Bartush, Chair; Nicholas Sacchinelli, Jonathan Pageler (7:30 p.m.)

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department; Joseph Schnierlein, Water Quality Advisory Chair; Jim Bajek, Roton Point Association; Tom Ryder, Sgt. Busceglie, Norwalk Marine Police; Geoff Steadman

This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bartush called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The roll was called. A quorum was not present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present for comment.

TREASURER REPORT

Mr. Mooney said that the Commission has a balance of \$21,212.50. The shellfish maps cost \$638.00. A check for the shellfish maps is ready, but the Commission needs to approve the payment.

Mr. Mooney explained that he was working on the details to make the partial payment on the boat enclosure. Mr. Bartush said that the item had not been delivered yet.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) Health Department –

During the month of January, the rainfall was 5.25 inches. Last January it was 2.88 inches. Historically it is 3.17. There were four closures: January 12th, 19th, 23rd and the 25th due to rainfall. There was one bypass event on January 26th.

B) Wastewater Treatment Plant – No report.

C) Water Quality –

Mr. Schnierlein gave an brief overview of the recent presentation by Mr. of Save the Sound at the Water Quality meeting. Most of the concerns center on the Upper Harbor and the suggestion is to try and reduce the impervious surfaces in that area. The discussion moved to the issue of reducing hypoxia in the Upper Harbor.

D) Permits –

The permits and the maps are completed and ready to go.

E) Police –

Sgt. Busceglie said that the shellfish flags are deteriorating and need to be replaced.

F) Advisory – No report.

G) Harbor Management –

Mr. Steadman said that he had attended the meeting and presented a report on work that was going on near or on shellfish beds. He said that even if there were no impacts, it does set a precedent.

Regarding the Walk Bridge project, the permits have not been issued yet. He added that they were still waiting to hear about the Eversource permits.

There will be a public hearing in the next month about the revisions to the Norwalk Plan of Conservation and Development including the Waterfront Industrial Zone Study.

Last week, Mr. Schnierlein and Mr. Steadman attended the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative Meeting. Mr. Steadman said that he had spoken about microbial source tracking and identifying the sources of the bacteria using DNA analysis. It will be important to advance the science on this. He went on to speak about a potential project in Westport involving the opening up of the Mill Pond for shellfish beds.

Mr. Steadman said that there was a bill that would impact the Harbor Commission's duties, which would be

Mr. Pageler joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was now present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• January 2023

**** MR. PAGELER MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2023 MEETING.**

**** MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

• Roton Point Association

Mr. Bajek greeted the Commission and said that he had spoken with the Roton Point Association about the extension of the boat ramp. Mr. Bajek went on to read the following statement into the record:

This is to follow up your recent Shellfish Commission site visit to the Roton Point Association boat ramp area. I understand that you expressed concern regarding potential shellfish impacts by the proposed ramp extension. In order to address your concern, we had a shellfish person to examine that area to determine the extent of shellfish present. They hand dug the proposed ramp extension area and did not locate any shellfish at all.

Another point of interest is that in 2017, the Association was authorized to dredge the intertidal area and the subtidal area near the existing ramp and as well as the dock area. With that dredging extending into a portion of the area we are proposing the ramp extension, a copy of that Connecticut DEEP authorization is attached. Your Commission certainly would have signed off on that dredging indicating that any impact to shellfish resources would have been minimal and acceptable.

Additionally, as part of the Agency consultations, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture has reviewed the proposed ramp extension and has concluded that supposed work will not significantly impact any shellfish area.

In summary, we feel there is sufficient information regarding the proposed ramp extension area to conclude the proposed work will not significantly impact any shellfish area. Therefore, we ask that the Shellfish Commission concur with that determination.

Thank you, Jim Bajek

Mr. Bartush said that despite the lack of evidence of a shellfish being there, the area was included in the historic shellfish bed and therefore the Shellfish Commission should protect this.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO DENY THE PERMIT FOR THE ROTON POINT ASSOCIATION.**

Mr. Pageler said that he had been prepared to vote against the proposal but there was new information to consider.

Mr. Bajek said that he was reviewing the plans for the 2017 dredging project and more than half of the ramp area was dredged more than once.

**** THE MOTION TO DENY THE PERMIT FOR THE ROTON POINT ASSOCIATION PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR (BARTUSH AND SACCHINELLI) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (PAGELER).**

Mr. Ryder greeted the Commission and said that he had been working on the Mill Pond project.

NEW BUSINESS

• 2 Nathan Hale Drive

Mr. Ryder said that he was representing the client at 2 Nathan Hale Drive and there was a small portion of the dock that exceeded 4 feet. It was the

**** MR. PAGELER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR 2 NATHAN HALE DRIVE WITH STANDARD LANGUAGE**

**** MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

• Kelp longlines South of Sheffield Island

Mr. Bartush said the Bureau of Aquaculture has requested that the permit be renewed. These are now Captain Bloom's boat and lines and therefore the name on the permit be changed.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGE OF THE PERMIT FOR THE KELP LONGLINES SOUTH OF SHEFFIELD ISLAND TO CAPTAIN BLOOM.**

**** MR. PAGELER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

TREASURER'S REPORT CONT'D.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT FOR THE SHELLFISH MAPS.**

**** MR. PAGELER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next Meeting – March 2, 2023 @ 7:15pm (Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bartush adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services