

**CITY OF NORWALK
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2023**

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference

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

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department; Joseph Schnierlein
Geoff Steadman, Jim Bajek; Sgt. Busceglie, Norwalk Marine Police

This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bartush called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The roll was called. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 1, 2022 Minutes:

The following correction was noted:

Page 2, please change the following paragraph from:

A) Health Department – Mr. Mooney updated the Commission on the amount of rainfall as follows: October 3.02 inches of rain; in October 2021 there was 1.16 inches. Historically it is 3.52 inches for October. There were three closures: November 11th, 16th and 27th. There were no bypasses for the month.

TO:

A) Health Department – Mr. Mooney updated the Commission on the amount of rainfall as follows: November 3.02 inches of rain; in November 2021 there was 1.16 inches. Historically it is 3.52 inches for November. There were three closures: November 11th, 16th and 27th. There were no bypasses for the month.

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2022 MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. PAGELER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2022
MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one from the public who wished to address the Commission at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Mooney then presented his report to the Commissioners. There were no changes from last month.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There was no report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports

A) Health Department – Mr. Mooney updated the Commission on the amount of rainfall as follows: December 4.54 inches of rain; in December 2021 there was 1.71 inches. Historically it is 3.87 inches for December. There were three closures: December 6th, 15th and 23rd. There were no reported bypasses for the month.

B) Wastewater Treatment Plant – No report.

C) Water Quality— Mr. Schnierlein said that the discussion at the meeting focused on the MS4 report, which has to be submitted to the State annually. Every year, the Committee makes recommendations to the various organizations. He said that one major concern was the presence of PFAS in the drinking water and other places. It is a known cancer causing agent. It is difficult to test for PFAS and there has been no testing of the shellfish beds.

Mr. Schnierlein said that next month, they will be hosting Mr. Peter Linderth of Save the Sound and other guests. The discussion will focus on the recent Save the Sound report and some of the concerns that Mr. Schnierlein had with the testing process. The evaluators noted that the water was not clear enough, however the shell fishermen will say that clear water indicates that there is not enough plankton for the shellfish and retards shell fish growth.

D) Permits – Mr. Bartush said that permits are almost finished and will be ready for distribution. He asked the Commissioner if they wanted to continue producing the tide charts for Fisherman's World. During the last few years, the Commission had subsidized the chart. The Commissioners decided not to continue paying for the charts since they are easily available online.

E) Police – Sgt. Busceglie said they had not received a notification to re-open the recreation shellfish beds. Mr. Mooney said that he would check into this.

F) Advisory – No report.

G) Harbor Management — Mr. Steadman said that he had reported on the Eversource information but there had not been any further communications from them. There has also been no additional communication from the Corps of Engineers about the Walk Bridge.

Mr. Steadman said that the Harbor Commission would be reviewing the proposed amendment to the Plan of Conservation and Development regarding the Industrial Waterfront Zoning Study, which will include recommendations from the Marine Commercial Zone that includes Water Street.

The Harbor Commission will be receiving a copy of the MS 4 (Municipal Stormwater) report, which is an annually required report. The Commission will be reviewing the report and making recommendations.

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

**** MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS READ PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

• Roton Point Association –

Mr. Bajek greeted the Commissioners and said that the Commissioners had said that they were going to stop by the boat ramp and the Calf Pasture live sand beach. Mr. Pageler said that he had visited both sites by boat. Mr. Bajek said that he had heard from the manager of the Association following a recent strong storm and that the area by ramp was now just boulders since the sand washed away.

Mr. Pageler said that he did not see any evidence of shellfish beds at Roton Point or Calf Pasture. Mr. Bartek said that rock would be favorable to the shellfish over sand or the boulders. The proposed ramp will be 48 feet long by 26 wide in addition to the existing ramp. Discussion followed.

It was suggested that the Commission visit the site as a group. Mr. Bartek said that he personally feels that this type of structure warrants serious discussion because of what it is. The client would like to have permission for the upcoming season. He said that he does not want to give tacit consent without more of a consensus.

2 Woodland Rd. –

Mr. Bartek said that the changes has been made and he was fine with the updated information. This could be moved forward with the standard language. Mr. Bajek said that DEEP was continuing to process the application.

- **3 Seabreeze** – previously submitted for finding in December.

- **26 Valley Road** – no new information because it is a Certification of Permission. The Shellfish Commission plays no formal role in the process other than their commentary.

- **Walk Bridge – DOT** – previously discussed.

- **Eversource**– previously discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bartek said that on January 21st, in New Haven there would be Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissioners. Mr. Pageler said that he might be able to attend.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2023 @ 7:15pm (Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. PAGELER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services