

**City of Norwalk
Shellfish Commission Meeting
January 3, 2019
Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Pat DeVito, Nick Sacchinelli, Steven Kvance

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police: Sgt. Pete LaPak

Advisory:

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman, John Romano, Tony Mobilia, Chris Samorajczyk, John Hanifin, Christian Brown, Sue Prosi, John Pinto, Tony D'Andrea, Debora Goldstein, John Flynn, Diane Lauricella, John Crespo, Jim Fallon, John Szturo, Chet Muckenhirn, Jeff Roia, Julie Georges, Denise Young, Kimberly Lesay, Adam Fox

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Samorajczyk and John Hanifin from CTDOT gave a project overview of the Walk Bridge with an anticipated duration of 4-5 years. It will be a 240' vertical lift span and was chosen because of the shortest construction schedule, lowest risk, fewest foundations in water and improved alignment with the Strofollino Bridge. They wanted to develop an awareness of protective measures and timelines for construction activities as well as protective measures in support of permit filings. Protective measures include turbidity curtains and monitoring, time of year restrictions, use of soft starts from March 15 to October 31, maintain one navigational channel and all temporary construction access restored to pre-construction conditions. Also discussed dredging activity, marine enclosures and vegetated tidal wetland restoration. They still do not have information on barge locations. Final comments were regarding submission of permit plates to Commissions for review.

Questions and concerns from Shellfish Commissioners and Members of the Public:

- Work to be done only on incoming tides was not mentioned anywhere in presentation
- Methodology for Water Quality Monitoring
- Status of Third Party Water Quality Monitoring
- Potential Analytes and Mitigation of Specific Analytes Found
- Dredge Spoils Dewatering
- Baseline Data from Test Piles and Historical Data
- Potential Effect of Aquarion Permit for Draw Down
- Reporting Structure
- Post Construction Monitoring
- Turbidity vs TSS and Particles on Turbidity Curtains
- Filter Fences
- Harbor Currents Study
- Phragmites Treatment and Spartina Restoration

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MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

December Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Bartush, 2nd by Comm. Sacchinelli. Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

Comm. DeVito reports:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		11/30/18	\$26,791.44	
DEPOSIT	Holiday Party	12/10/18	\$ 420.60	
	Pramer Oyster	12/21/18	\$ 73.50	Seed Oyster
INTEREST			\$ 0.00	
EXPENSES	Frontier	12/19 to 1/18	(\$ 72.84)	Phone
	Police Services	12/8/18	(\$ 548.25)	
	Norwalk Inn	12/10/18	(\$1,305.60)	Holiday Dinner
BALANCE		12/31/18		\$25,358.85
	Last Year	12/31/17		\$23,145.95
	Two Years Ago	12/31/16		\$16,931.07

SECRETARY

Commissioner Johnson stated that Eversource sent a revised design for the proposed horizontal directional drill crossing below the Norwalk River which is required for the Norwalk Bridge Transmission Relocation Project. The Commission will review the design and comment at the February 7, 2019 Shellfish Meeting at which time Eversource will be present.

Commissioner Bartush and Sgt. LaPak talked about several current cases where a drone would be beneficial. Sgt. LaPak will look into pricing, training and specs.

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 74' 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. Tabled review of application to February meeting to look at update with modifications.

No further documents have been received regarding the Greens Ledge Light Application.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

7.27 inches of rain in December. Average since 1987 is 3.70 inches of rain for December. There were 141 calls in December. There were five closures for Cooke's Ground for over .5 inch on December 2, 16, 21, 28 & 31, 2018. There were five closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) on December 2, 16, 21, 28 & 31, 2018 and two closures in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches) on December 21 & 31, 2018

There were no reports of a bypass for December 2018.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein discussed Aquarion's filing of a permit to take water from a well that was first drilled in 1982 in Cannondale next to the Norwalk River and they want to draw up to 1 million gallons per day. Mayor Rilling received a response to his concerns that was sent to Aquarion, from Denise Ruzicka, the Director of the State Water Planning and Management Division. Major comments were that the mitigation plan must be modified to address extreme flow events, justification for the 10 percent streamflow impact limit, status of wells within 1,500 feet mentioned in survey, basis for conclusion that it is not an interbasin transfer of water and questions about Water Quality Standards and Designated Uses and how the proposed production would not have any effect on these classifications or uses of water.

PERMITS

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

POLICE

Sgt. LaPak reports 10 hours of patrol, no arrests, no violations and no recreational activity.

ADVISORY

Water temperature reported at low 40's degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

No Report.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners will attend a Gathering of Shellfish Commissions on January 26, 2019 at the Sound School Aquaculture Center in New Haven from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Commissioner Bartush discussed the City's Plan of Conservation and Development and how Shellfish is not mentioned in the document. He will try to attend the next meeting.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Sacchinelli, second by Commissioner Bartush, Vote Unanimous 9:20 PM

Minutes by Thomas Closter