

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 2, 2026**

ATTENDANCE: Steve Bartush (Chair), Jonathan Pageler, Mark Hiller, Nick Sacchinelli.

STAFF: Bill Mooney, Assistant Director of Health.

OTHERS: Sgt. Justin Bisceglie, Geoff Steadman (Consultant), Jeff Mangels (Harbor Management Commission).

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bartush called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. A quorum was present.

II. ROLL CALL

A roll call of those present was performed.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: MARCH 5, 2026

****MR. PAGELER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

****MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

V. REPORTS

A. TREASURER

Mr. Mooney reported there were no expenditures this month; the balance remains at \$31,997.

B. SECRETARY

Mr. Bartush reported that, following the prior meeting, the City provided the requested information regarding 160 Water Street. He stated that documentation was submitted confirming that the outflow area had previously been dredged, as well as documentation outlining the disposal plan. The materials indicate that dredged material will be brought on land and disposed of outside the

City of Norwalk in accordance with best practices. These items addressed the Commission's concerns.

Regarding 20 Old Wharf, Mr. Bartush stated that, based on information from the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission, the applicant/agent has withdrawn the request to have a work barge aground at any point during the tide cycle. He explained that the operation will instead follow standard practice, with the barge entering at high tide and exiting at low tide, using a mooring approved by the Norwalk Harbormaster.

C. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Mooney reported that rainfall for March totaled 4.47 inches, comparable to 4.66 inches last year and the historical average of 4.26 inches. He noted there were no closures and one brief bypass on March 10, lasting approximately 30 minutes, due to a combined sewer overflow caused by a blockage that was quickly resolved.

D. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

There was no report. Mr. Bartush noted that Mr. Kolb assisted with the documentation and maintained good communication with the Shellfish Commission.

E. WATER QUALITY

Mr. Bartush stated there was no update on the reinstatement of the Committee.

F. PERMITS

Mr. Mooney noted there were no new permit updates and stated that prior funds were applied to expenditures last month. He plans to visit Winfield Street within the week.

G. POLICE

Sgt. Bisceglie reported that activity is currently quiet as preparations begin for the season, noting the water temperature is approximately 38 degrees. Mr. Bartush added that current low tide conditions would be favorable for clamming if temperatures were warmer.

H. ADVISORY

Mr. Steadman provided regional updates, noting Stamford is renewing a commercial shellfishing lease with expanded requirements and Greenwich is updating its Harbor Management Plan to strengthen protections for natural shellfish beds. He stated proposed harbor management legislation was not successful this session but will continue to be pursued.

He also discussed the draft Norwalk River Watershed-Based Plan, expressing concern that it does not adequately reflect Norwalk Harbor, shellfish resources, or prior Commission contributions. He recommended the Commission consider submitting comments during the public comment period to emphasize these points and suggest additional focus on environmental protections and watershed impacts.

Mr. Bartush stated he would be leaving the meeting shortly and would turn the meeting over to Mr. Pageler for the remainder.

I. HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Mr. Bartush recognized Mr. Mangels on his appointment as Chair of the Harbor Management Commission and invited him to speak.

Mr. Mangels confirmed that the 20 Old Wharf application was approved with the condition that the barge not rest on the bottom and be operated at the discretion of the Harbormaster. He also reported that the Commission is working with Boy Scout Troop 222 on a cleanup project at Grassy Island, following a successful cleanup effort at Shea Island the prior year.

Mr. Bartush left the meeting at approximately 6:44 pm.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. 160 Water St.

This item was discussed during the Secretary's Report.

B. 20 Wharf Rd.

This item was discussed during the Secretary's and Harbor Management's Reports.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

VIII. DISCUSSION

Mr. Pageler noted the need to schedule the Commission's annual (biannual) gathering and stated that potential spring dates should be considered.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

****MR. HILLER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 7, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.