

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 4, 2026
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

ATTENDANCE: Steve Bartush (Chair), 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 6:32 pm. A quorum was present.

II. ROLL CALL

A roll call of those present was performed.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: MAY 7, 2026

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

****MR. HILLER 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 the same.

B. SECRETARY

Mr. Bartush advised there was no report for this month.

C. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Mooney reported that rainfall for May totaled 4.14 inches. He noted one beach closure on May 24 due to rainfall and no bypasses.

D. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

There was no report.

E. WATER QUALITY

Mr. Mooney reported that he expects to meet with the Mayor's Office in the coming weeks to further discuss the committee.

F. PERMITS

Mr. Mooney stated that he would inquire whether the new East Norwalk vendor is interested in a laminating machine and provide a rough count of permit sales and collected email addresses from both the new vendor and Fisherman's World.

G. POLICE

Sgt. Bisceglie reported that boating activity is increasing. Water temperatures are currently in the upper 50s to 60 degrees. Mr. Bartush noted that he had purchased new white and black flags and would provide the receipt to Mr. Mooney.

H. ADVISORY

Mr. Steadman recognized former Harbor Commission Chair Tony D'Andrea and his contributions to Norwalk Harbor. He provided updates on the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative draft plan, the Merritt 7 Project, and recent DEEP public notice and hearing procedures. Proposed comments on the draft plan included topics related to Norwalk Harbor, water quality, stormwater management, and environmental conservation.

The Commission discussed submitting comments on the draft plan update and agreed that a draft letter would be prepared for review and submission prior to the June 15 comment deadline.

****MR. HILLER MOVED TO PREPARE A DRAFT LETTER REGARDING THE NORWALK RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE PLAN UPDATE.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

****MR. HILLER MOVED TO PREPARE A DRAFT LETTER WITH REGARD TO THE MERIT 7 RESTORATION.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

I. HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Mr. Mangels reported that the Harbor Management Commission approved renaming the Strategic Harbor Plan to the Strategic Harbor Study, noting that the document is intended to serve as a study rather than a definitive plan. He also reported that the terms of Deputy Harbormasters Lee and Vinci expire on June 30 and that he intends to recommend their reappointment to the state.

****MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Strategic Harbor Plan

The Commission discussed the Harbor Management Commission's designation of the Strategic Harbor Study and concerns regarding proposed mooring field locations and their potential impact on shellfish resources. The Commission also reviewed information provided by DEEP regarding jurisdictional authority and implementation of harbor management policies

****MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE DOCUMENT AS A STRATEGIC HARBOR STUDY RATHER THAN A STRATEGIC HARBOR PLAN, EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED MOORING FIELD LOCATIONS, AND REVISIT THE MATTER AT THE JULY MEETING FOLLOWING FURTHER REVIEW.**

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Water Treatment Dye Testing

Mr. Mooney reported that the recent rhodamine dye testing was part of a larger scientific study and that the final report is expected to be made publicly available, although publication may take up to a year. Sgt. Bisceglie noted that several sampling stations associated with the study were observed throughout the harbor.

VIII. DISCUSSION

There was no further discussion.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

****THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 2, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.