

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 7, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Steve Bartush, Chairman; Pete Johnson; Jonathan Pageler; Mark Hiller
(6:32pm)

STAFF: Bill Mooney, Assistant Director of Health

OTHERS: Alan Kibbe, Norwalk Harbor Management; Sgt. Justin Bisceglie; Geoff Steadman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman 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: JULY 10, 2025

**** MR. JOHNSON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2025, AS SUBMITTED.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation at this time.

V. REPORTS

A. TREASURER

Mr. Mooney reported that there was no change in this account; the balance remains at \$29,292.00.

B. SECRETARY

Mr. Mooney came forward to update the Commission on the meeting he and Amelia recently had

with DEEP to discuss the permitting process for the proposed Manresa Wilds Park. Mr. Mooney advised the process for obtaining a long-term stewardship permit will begin around mid-September to early October. Regarding the oil tank removal, Mr. Mooney explained that no permit was required as the tanks were located above the coastal jurisdiction line, which did not necessitate DEEP involvement. Any work below the jurisdiction line will require further involvement and will be part of the stewardship permit process.

C. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Mooney reported that July rainfall totaled 2.43 inches, below the historical average of 3.96 inches and last year's 5.4 inches. A closure occurred on July 14 due to rainfall exceeding one inch. A sewer line break was found and repaired on West Rocks Road, with 15 feet of line fixed. There was no significant impact from the break.

D. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

There was no report at this time.

E. PERMITS

Mr. Bartush spoke with a vendor on Winfield Street, who expressed interest in carrying permits for the 2026 season. He suggested starting the process earlier than last year. Mr. Mooney confirmed that he would work on getting the vendor a W-9 form to process the permits.

F. POLICE

Sgt. Bisceglie reported that there was an inquiry about broken oyster stakes in the Wilson Cove Tavern Island area. After speaking with Cops Island, they will pull the three broken stakes and monitor the area moving forward. Mr. Mooney acknowledged safety concerns. Sgt. Bisceglie clarified that the floating stakes have minimal resistance.

Mr. Pageler asked about GPS and oyster bed marking. Sgt. Bisceglie explained that markers are used to indicate farming stages and potential hazards, also serving as navigational aids.

G. ADVISORY

Sgt. Bisceglie reported that the water temperature is around 75.

H. HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Mr. Kibbe reported that the campsites on Shea Island were renovated by Mr. Mangles, Sgt. Bisceglie, and Eagle Scouts. He expressed support for maintaining them for public use. Mr. Steadman raised concerns about the DOT's Route 7 and Merritt Parkway project, highlighting the lack of focus on stormwater management and environmental impact. He discussed the update

to the Norwalk River Watershed plan, which aims to reduce bacteria runoff, and mentioned a public meeting in September. Additionally, he addressed the proposed 108 Water Street redevelopment, noting concerns about water-dependent uses and floodplain development.

Mr. Steadman brought up the Manresa Island stewardship permit, expressing concerns about contamination and remediation. Mr. Kibbe pointed out the DOT's changes to the Super 7 Road and Merritt Parkway interchange, which eliminate important evacuation routes and affect traffic flow.

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

**** MR. JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. 26 SHOREFRONT PARK

Mr. Bartush noted that he has not received any paperwork or direct communication from the South Norwalk Boat Club on this matter.

B. 66 CALF PASTURE BEACH ROAD

Mr. Mooney advised that the applicant is still waiting for approval to conduct a study.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. BROKEN OYSTER STICKS AND PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

This item was addressed earlier by Sgt. Bisceglie and Mr. Mooney.

Mr. Bartush confirmed that the 1882 shellfish map that was requested is publicly available at the State Library.

VIII. DISCUSSION

Mr. Hiller offered his assistance, noting he's on the water often and has a skiff to access the islands.

Mr. Johnson explained oyster stakes and how they're used to mark areas where groundwork is being done.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. JOHNSON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. HILLER SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,
Zulma Roundtree*