

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Nick Sacchinelli, Mark Hiller

STAFF: Bill Mooney, Assistant Director of Health

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mooney called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. A quorum was not present.

II. ROLL CALL

A roll call of those present was performed.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: AUGUST 7, 2025

The minutes were tabled.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Garrett Friedrichsen of Crooked Trail spoke of a large vessel with a massive outlet pipe whose discharge was turning the water from Wilson Cove to the power plant dark and murky. He expressed concern that the activity harmed recreational fishing and crabbing and asked if there was any way to mitigate impacts during the season.

V. REPORTS

A. TREASURER

Mr. Mooney reported that there were no expenditures or income; the balance remains at \$29,292.00.

B. SECRETARY

There was no report at this time.

C. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. Mooney reported the rainfall for August totaled 2.27 inches. The year before, it was 7.29, showing a significant difference; historically, it is 4.25. A closure occurred on August 21st due to rainfall.

D. WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

There was no report at this time.

E. PERMITS

Mr. Mooney confirmed that he spoke with Mr. Bartush, and they will be working on obtaining the new permits for October. He noted that any proposed changes to the maps should be raised, as new maps may accompany the permits.

F. POLICE

Sgt. Bisceglie reported that the oyster stakes matter discussed last month has been resolved. He mentioned a boat that broke from its mooring near the south bank and drifted to Peach Island, which was secured. The water temperature is between 71 and 72.

G. ADVISORY

Mr. Kibbe reported that the Harbor Commissioners were provided with city-issued email addresses, which will help with FOIA compliance. He noted that the Cove Marina application has been put on hold. The Commission approved the notion for 108 Water Street, saying it could go forward with a number of conditions.

Mr. Kibbe raised concerns about the increasing population in South Norwalk and potential egress challenges during weather events. He noted the DOT's plan to replace ramps between Super 7 and the Merritt Parkway with a four-way traffic-light intersection. DOT expressed confidence that egress could be managed with police and traffic control.

Mr. Steadman discussed Manresa Island, a stewardship permit is under review with hearings and public comment scheduled in October. He stressed the need to address potential marine sediment contamination and shellfish impacts. He also discussed the 108 Water Street redevelopment, noting the shift away from water-dependent uses, DEEP's concerns about floodplain housing, and the importance of preserving the district's marine commercial intent.

Updates included the Norwalk River Watershed action plan with a September 13 public meeting, concerns about stormwater management in the Merritt Parkway/Route 7 project, work to amend the Harbor Management Act, safety measures following a Stratford drowning, and a proposal to name Veterans Park Marina after Tony Mobilia.

H. HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Most of the discussion took place during the Advisory Report.

Mr. Pinto expressed concern about diminishing the marine commercial zone and increasing residential development in a flood zone. He noted that while DEEP raised issues regarding dry egress, proposed plans did not provide satisfactory solutions, relying instead on the possibility of raising Water Street at an uncertain time.

He added that proposals for water-dependent uses, such as a shellfish facility and boat rentals, did not adequately address the need for marine commercial space, including dock and vessel storage.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. REQUEST TO SPEAK TO HARBOR ISSUE CONCERNING COMMERCIAL DREDGING VESSEL

Due to a lack of quorum, this item was tabled. No discussion or action took place.

VIII. DISCUSSION

There was no further discussion.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.