

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 27, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: John Romano, Chair; William Gardella; Anthony Mobilia; John Pinto;
John Prespo; Dennis Santella

STAFF: Geoff Steadman, Consultant

OTHERS: Steve Bartuch; Pete Johnson, Shellfish Commission; Diane Lauricella,
Joe Schnierlein, Water Quality Committee; Deborah Goldstein;
Diane Cece

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Mr. Romano called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. and Mr. Prespo led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Romano called the Roll. A Quorum was present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Romano did not present a report this evening.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

VOTE FOR CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, SECRETARY

Dr. Pinto reported that the Nominating Committee met and recommended the following slate:

Mr. Romano, Chair
Mr. Santella, Vice Chair
Mr. Prespo, Secretary

Mr. Romano asked for nominations from the floor three times. Hearing none, he closed the nominations.

**** MR. MOBILIA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE NOMINATIONS AS PRESENTED**

**MR. ROMANO, CHAIR
MR. SANTELLA, VICE CHAIR
MR. PRESPO, SECRETARY**

**** MR. GARDELLA SECONDED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Cece said she was here this evening to observe the meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

HARBOR MASTER

A report was not presented this evening.

CONSULTANT

A report was not presented this evening.

SHELLFISH COMMISSION

Mr. Bartuch's report is attached.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

APPLICATION REVIEW

WALK BRIDGE PROJECT: THE DOT WILL BE AT THIS MEETING TO DISCUSS THE BRIDGE PROJECT AND REVIEW THE NEWLY TRANSMITTED PERMIT PLATES.

**SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED: WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM
AND REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES INVOLVING WETLAND MITIGATION AND DREDGING**

**DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT “PROPOSED COASTAL VISION” WHICH WAS PREPARED
FOR CONSERVATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BENEFICIAL LAND USE IN
THE NORWALK COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT (CAM) AREA. IN ADDITION, WE
WILL REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE COMMISSION’S (NHMC) COMMENTS
CONCERNING THE NORWALK CITYWIDE PLAN 2019**

Mr. Romano reported that representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOT) made a presentation to the Application Review Committee earlier this evening. They are now working with the Commission and understand that the Commission is not here to impede the project. Mr. Steadman added that the DOT is now committed to pre-construction monitoring and monitoring during construction.

Mr. Schnierlein said they have to be ready for an explosion of population in the water such as sea grapes and plankton. Mr. Johnson asked if the Commission would be able to see the 24-hour monitor. Mr. Schnierlein said he pushed for that at the meeting in Newington and their excuse was that they do not have wifi around the bridge. He said they do have wifi around the bridge; the content has to go through a data logger to the website.

Based on their discussions with the DOT, Dr. Pinto and the Commissioners reviewed a letter with their recommendations.

- ** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ACCEPT THE WALK BRIDGE
RECOMMENDATIONS AS DISCUSSED**
- ** MR. GARDELLA SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOORING AND HARBOR SAFETY

Mr. Santella reported that the renewal applications are underway for the 2019 season and the Committee will monitor and address issues and concerns as the season progresses.

23 Approved Applications

70 Applications Under Review

There was no report for Harbor Safety.

FINANCE

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Mr. Mobilia reviewed the finances and said that as of yesterday, their balance was \$26,483.74. The Commission will go before the Finance/Claims Committee on March 13th to present their budget.

Mr. Romano suggested that going forward, the finance report be sent out with the agenda.

Mr. Romano said he will address the mooring and harbor use fees next month and will let the public speak on those topics. The fees need to be approved by the Common Council before renewals go out. The Commissioners discussed mooring and harbor use fees.

Dr. Pinto requested payment for services rendered by Tom Hart for \$1,800.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO REQUEST PAYMENT OF \$1,800 TO THOMAS HART
FOR SERVICES RENDERED
** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A report was not presented this evening.

NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE

A report was not presented this evening.

The Commissioners discussed the need for commission appointments. Mr. Romano said he would like to look at appointing alternates to the Commission.

Mr. Romano said he plans to appoint new committees but hopes to get two new people on the Commission first.

WATER QUALITY

Mr. Schnierlein reported that Senator Duff's bill to make Calf Pasture Beach a wild life refuge made it out of the Environmental Committee. He said the person who replied to his letter was not aware of the environmental impact of converting Calf Pasture Beach to a wild life refuge.

Mr. Schnierlein referenced an article written by Mr. Anderson of Buck Scientific about the water quality in the harbor. He said he talked to Mr. Anderson who said he tested the water in the Harbor and found lead. Dr. Pinto asked why he was motivated to alarm the public. Mr. Schnierlein said he sent a letter to the Mayor and the Conservation Officer.

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Ms. Lauricella said the way it was rolled out was suspicious. Mr. Anderson's article started out by stating that he was against the WALK Bridge project. He added wording that was alarming by comparing the water quality in the Harbor to the drinking water in Flint, Michigan. She said it is working looking into, but his article was alarming. She said there is no comparison with Flint, Michigan. The Water Quality Committee will look into this further.

Mr. Schnierlein said that water samples will be taken and sent to a lab. He added that they need to find out what could have caused these levels of lead in the water. He said the readings could have been taken when the piling work was being done. This is something they need to be aware of and it would be nice to have Buck Scientific certified in water quality testing on board to do testing.

Mr. Romano said his major comment about the POCD is that it does not accurately reflect the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission or the Shellfish Commission.

- ** MR. MOBILIA MOVED TO PROPOSE THAT THE PROPOSED COASTAL VISION DOCUMENT AND THE COMMENTS REGARDING THE NORWALK CITYWIDE PLAN 2019 BE SENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING AND TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION**
- ** DR. PINTO SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

BRIDGES

A report was not presented this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes and made corrections.

- ** DR. PINTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**
- ** MR. SANTELLA SECONDED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Steadman reported that he and Mr. Mobilia attended the retirement party for Mr. O'Donnell from the Army Corps of Engineers. He noted that a lot of history is lost when someone retires.

No old business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

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**** MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** DR. PINTO SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services