

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
APRIL 24, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: John Romano. Chair; John Crespo; William Gardella; Allen Kibbe; Christopher MacDonnell; Jeffrey Mangels; Anthony Mobilia; Dr. John T. Pinto, Dennis Santella

OTHERS: Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Steven Bartush and Pete Johnson, Shellfish Commission; Sgt. Greg Scully, Harbor Master; Bruce Lovallo, Deputy Harbor Master; Wesley Oliver, Norwalk Yacht Club; Joseph Schnierlein, Water Quality Committee

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE**

Mr. Romano called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and asked Mr. MacDonnell to lead the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Mr. Romano called the Roll.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Romano reported that he had a very productive meeting with Ms. King and Ms. Casey. His short list of takeaways is as follows.

- Mooring fees need to be raised. That process needs to start now for the next boating season.
- New barge fees for deliveries.
- Boat user fees. All boats either moored or docked, private or public.
- Possibility of a Harbor Master Marine Police facility at Veteran's Park.
- Increase the number of docks for Police, Fire, Harbor Master, public/transient at visitors' dock area. Seek grants from various foundations or request the CT DOT to underwrite some of the work.
- Dredge south of the Stroffolino Bridge to make room for new docks. Also dredge south of the existing docks to make space for more docks. Mitigate in predetermined approved area on the south side of Veterans' Park.
- Schedule a boat tour of Norm Bloom's oyster operations, including a tour of the Norwalk river.

#### 4. **STAFF REPORTS:**

##### a. Harbor Master - Scully

Sgt. Scully presented his report. He said a drone was purchased. Mr. Lovallo made arrangements to have the Harbor Master's boat repaired. He and Mr. Lovallo plan to look at the moorings at Sheffield Island.

The United States Coast Guard contacted Sgt. Scully and asked him for a letter of security along with a security plan.

##### b. Consultant - Steadman

Mr. Steadman did not present a report this evening.

#### 5. **SHELLFISH COMMISSION** - Johnson / Bartush

The Shellfish Commission's report is as follows:

##### Norwalk Shellfish Commission Report to Norwalk Harbor Management Commission:

1. 3.55" of rain in March. 32-year average is 4.20"
  - a. Two closures for Cooke's Ground (for over 0.5"). March 4, 22.
  - b. Zero closures in the CAA (1-1.49").
  - c. Zero closures in the CAAIDN (>1.5").
  - d. No reports of bypasses.
  - e. 136 March Advisory hotline [(203) 838-98071 calls.
    - i. Commissions of Norwalk & Westport: Recreational shellfishing OPEN since February 1.
    - ii. Town of Darien: Recreational shellfishing OPEN.
2. Green's Ledge Lighthouse Dock Application.
  - a. New drawing in. North-facing. Steel pilings. Off leased 482 W shellfish bed.
3. 26 Shorefront Park violations on DEEP NOV #LIS-2018-4009-V.
  - a. Waiting for new COP.
4. Local residential dock standardization.
5. Professor Tom Hart consultation funding approved.
6. Greenwich SC/UConn microplastics paper.
  - a. Phase I: Plankton net-style: patchy spatial variation
    - i. Adsorbed organics via GC/MS/MS
      1. All below LOD
    - ii. Metals via ICP/MS
      1. Highly variable
  - a. Tidal and spatial differences

- b. V/Cr/Mn/Co/Ni/Cu/Zn/As/Se/CWPb...Hg below LOD.
  - b. Phases II and III: Shellfish meat and shellfish beds,
- 7. POCD: Formally endorsed the Proposed Coastal Vision report for Conservation, Economic Development, and Beneficial Land-Use in the Norwalk Coastal Area Management (CAM) Area.
- 8. Eversource cable relocation.
- 9. DOT,
- 10. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 2, 2019 19:00; Health Department First Floor Auditorium.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. Application Review- Pinto 1. 8 St. James Place, Rowayton CT.

- 1. **APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE AND CAM APPLICATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING. THE APPLICANTS, JOHN AND KATHRYN STEVENS, PROPOSE TO DEMOLISH THE EXISTING STRUCTURE AND RE-CONSTRUCT A NEW 2 1/2 STORY HOUSE ON GENERALLY THE EXISTING BUILDING FOOTPRINT.**

Dr. Pinto reviewed the application.

**\*\* MR. GARDELLA MOVED TO FORWARD THE APPLICATION BECAUSE IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN. THE APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO EMPLOY BEST PRACTICES DURING CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGE STORM WATER RUN-OFF INTO THE NORWALK HARBOR**

**\*\* MR. MOBILIA SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 2. **REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO BUILDING ZONE MAP (UPPER HARBOR REGION) AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO AMENDMENTS TO THE BUILDING ZONE REGULATIONS. AS THE PROPOSED CHANGES AFFECT THE COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT BOUNDARY AND AFFECT PROPERTY ON, IN, OR CONTIGUOUS TO NORWALK HARBOR, THE PROPOSED CHANGES ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE NHMC.**

Dr. Pinto said the Application Review Committee agreed to postpone their comments.

3. **DISCUSSION OF LETTER OF RESPONSE TO EVERSOURCE REGARDING THEIR PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE TWO 115KV TRANSMISSION CABLES UNDER NORWALK HARBOR AND BENEATH THE NORWALK VISITOR'S DOCKS AND LAUNCH RAMPS.**

Dr. Pinto reported that the Eversource plans were to tunnel under the Harbor near the Visitors' docks and come up near the parking lot. The issue is not knowing what the limitations are for future development. Eversource did not provide any alternate plans.

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA MOVED THAT THE PLAN PRESENTED BY EVERSOURCE IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN. THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION REQUESTED THAT THEY PROVIDE:**

- **AN ALTERNATE ROUTE**
- **CLARIFICATION OF ALL RESTRICTIONS**
- **RISK ASSESSMENT**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Dr. Pinto will create a letter to send to Eversource.

b. Mooring and Harbor Safety - Santella

Mr. Santella's report is as follows:

Mooring Committee

- Renewal Applications are under way for the 2019 season and the Committee will monitor and address issues and concerns as the season progresses.

- 36 Approved applications

- 49 Renewals under review

- 28 Applications under review

All moorings that are in use for this season will be checked by H. M. Scully and D. H. M. Lovallo for compliance with the Mooring Rules and Regulations. Mooring Tags will be placed on the mooring balls for all approved mooring permits.

Harbor Safety

- No Report

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c. Finance - Mobilia

Mr. Mobilia reviewed the financials as of April 23, 2019. Mr. Romano said they have to get new fees in place in order to build up the funds necessary for the Commission. He added that they need to create an Abandoned Vessel fund.

Mr. Mobilia noted that any expenses over \$100.00 need to be authorized by the Commission.

**\*\* MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF \$1,320.00 TO G & C  
MARINE SERVICES FOR THE HAULING AND DISPOSAL OF AN  
ABANDONED VESSEL  
\*\* MR. KIBBE SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

d. Plans and Recommendations - TBT

The Committee did not meet yet. Mr. Mobilia suggested sending a document outlining the charge of the Harbor Management Commission to all Commissioners.

f. Newsletter / Web Site - Mobilia

Mr. Romano suggested more focus on social media and that the committee create a twice a year newsletter.

g. Water Quality - Schnierlein /Crespo

Mr. Schnierlein submitted the following report:

**Mayor's Water Quality Committee report for 4-4-2019**

We discussed Dick Harris and my visit to Buck Scientific and the fact that they understood what problems they had with their methodology. I have since forwarded a link to them from DEEP on developing a QAPP, which they acknowledge they will work on.

We passed out a request for DEEP for the CT Water Quality standards feedback. I did respond with notes on a lack of identification as to the source of E. coli (species) and eliminating "hot spots" as well as upgrading septic and sewer line and testing for anthropogenic pharmaceuticals.

We discussed the reforming of the Norwalk River Watershed Association. Tom stated that we should look to something happening in May as projected by Alexis Cherichetti. We also discussed water emergencies and shared Norwalk's guidelines. Most of us felt there was too small a fine for continued high use during a drought emergency and there was no provision for turning off an abuser's water. Also, no control for those on a well yet this could affect other wells' nearby supply of water.

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Of note is the upcoming meeting for the Connecticut Blue Plan. Meeting dates and locations are below.

The purpose of the Long Island Sound Blue Plan is to protect traditional uses, minimize conflicts, and maximize compatibility, now and in the future. This includes preserving Long Island Sound's ecosystems and resources, and facilitating a transparent, science-based decision-making process.

The latest draft is:

[https://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/long\\_island\\_sound/lis\\_blue\\_plan/lis\\_resource\\_and\\_use\\_inventory\\_april\\_2018\\_v1.2.pdf](https://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/long_island_sound/lis_blue_plan/lis_resource_and_use_inventory_april_2018_v1.2.pdf)

The plan is worth reading and it has holes in it. One of the issues I had with it, is apparently it is going to be based in the eastern end of the state, yet most of the population, hypoxia, and conflicts occur in the Western Sound.

See dates and locations below:

Meeting locations and dates:

Branford: April 24, 6:30 p.m.

Thimble Island Brewing company, 16 Business Park Dr, Branford, CT 06405

Darien: May 9, 7:00 p.m.

Darien Library, 1441 Post Rd, Darien, CT 06920

Groton: May 14, 7:00 p.m.

Avery Point Academic Building, 1080 Shennecossett Rd, Groton, CT 06405

Old Saybrook: May 23, 6:30 p.m.

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Pavilion at Saybrook Point, 155 College Street, Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Westport: May 29, 7:00 pm

Town Hall Auditorium, 110 Myrtle Ave, Westport, CT 06880

Milford: June 5, 7:00pm

City Hall Auditorium, 110 River St, Milford, CT 06460

Mr. Schnierlein also said he presented Harbor bottom species for Eversource. He noted that their expert only saw two species. Mr. Schnierlein presented a list with 23 fish, 17 mollusks and 18 crustaceans. These data were collected from the Aquarium dock over the course of many years. The dock is very close to the proposed location of the transmission lines.

h. Bridges - Mobilia

There was no report this evening.

7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No action was taken.

8. **NEW BUSINESS / OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Romano said that Ms. King and Ms. Casey will help with grants for the Harbor Management Commission. He discussed creating a building at Veterans' Park.

Mr. Steadman suggested posting the Water Quality presentation on the website.

Mr. Romano suggested presenting "WALK Bridge – the reality and the myths" at the next State of the Harbor meeting.

Mr. Steadman reported that the DOT believes they need space to moor six barges in the Harbor. Mr. Romano said there is no space in the Harbor.

Mr. Mobilia acknowledged the recent passing of Mr. Frank Strauch.

Mr. Wesley Oliver presented thoughts on how to increase mooring fees. Mr. Romano said he will add this item to next month's agenda. The Commissioners discussed user and mooring fees. Mr. MacDonnell also discussed impact fees. Mr. Steadman said considering an impact fee is reasonable but there is a lot of resistance.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

\*\* **MR. SANTELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN**  
\*\* **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services