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City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting February 6, 2020 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:08 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Tom Mattera
Staff: Thomas Closter
Police: Sgt. Pete LaPak
Advisory: Capt. Dave Hopp
Guests: Dr. Pinto, Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

January Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Bartush, 2nd by Comm. Mattera. Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

Commissioner Mattera reports:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		1/31/20	\$18,765.56	
DEPOSIT			\$	
INTEREST			\$	
EXPENSES	Frontier	1/1/20	\$ 76.76	Phone
	Norwalk Inn		\$ 1608.00	
	Flags		\$ 29.64	
BALANCE		1/31/20		\$17,051.16
	Last Year	1/31/19		\$24,905.35
	Two Years Ago	1/31/18		\$23,020.50

SECRETARY

Chairman Johnson has no report.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:
2.29 inches of rain in January. Average since 1987 is 3.25 inches of rain for January.
There were 145 calls in January. There were two closures for Cooke's Ground for over 0.5 inch on January 18 & 25, 2020. There was one closure in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) on January 25, 2020 and no closures in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches).

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There were no reports of a bypass for January.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein talked about the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative meeting held earlier that day with representatives from the watershed towns. Items discussed were future direction and projects, potential for a part time coordinator and a presentation by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi regarding the future of the Fox Hill flood control dam which has been upgraded to a high hazard classification by state and federal authorities. The cost of improving the dam is 6 million and the cost of removal is 3 million. Concerns are the impact of communities downriver like Wilton & Norwalk and the effect of flood control.

Chairman Schnierlein said there has been no communication with Eversource and their plans for the transmission line relocation project. Committee members are still very concerned about the path and method.

Chairman Schnierlein attended the 16th Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions. The workshop discussed micro plastics and how a study by UConn revealed that shellfish do not retain micro plastics

Chairman Schnierlein gave an update on Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). He said that Aquaculture will start testing shellfish and testing labs will be set up at UConn, Central and Western Connecticut.

Dick Harris presented a power point presentation on the Department of Transportation's railroad cable activity in the Saugatuck Harbor. Sediments that were sampled showed positive results for arsenic and copper.

PERMITS

Commissioner Mattera gave an update regarding the permits:

Type	Number	Fee	Amount
Norwalk Resident	94	\$15.00	\$1410.00
Fisherman's World	94	\$ 2.00	(\$188.00)
Norwalk Senior	49	\$ 7.00	\$ 343.00
Fisherman's World	49	\$ 2.00	(\$98.00)
Non-Resident	50	\$32.00	\$1600.00
Fisherman's World	50	\$ 2.00	(\$100.00)
		Sub Total	\$3,353.00
			(\$386.00)
		Total	\$2,967.00 10-21-19

Type	Number	Fee	Amount
Norwalk Resident	64	\$15.00	\$ 960.00
Fisherman's World	64	\$ 2.00	(\$128.00)

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Norwalk Senior	51	\$ 7.00	\$ 357.00
Fisherman's World	51	\$ 2.00	(\$102.00)
Non-Resident	46	\$32.00	\$1472.00
Fisherman's World	46	\$ 2.00	(\$ 92.00)
Junior	9	\$ 1.00	\$ 9.00
Fisherman's World	9	\$ 1.00	(\$9.00)
		Sub Total	\$2,798.00
			(\$331.00)
		Total	\$2,467.00 12-31-19
		Total	\$5,434.00

2020 New Permit Fees

Norwalk Resident	\$17.00
Norwalk Senior	\$ 9.00
Non-Resident	\$ 39.00
Junior	\$ 2.00

Commercial seed oyster permit – \$250 per boat and \$2 per bag

Commercial clamming permit – \$800 per year +10%

Five gallon pale max per day for all species in aggregate

POLICE

Sgt. LaPak reports 10 hours of patrol for December 2019 and 10 hours of patrol for January 2020.

Very little activity.

ADVISORY

Water reported at 37 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Commission has sent letters of concern in opposition regarding safe placement of vessels for Walk Bridge Project to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

There will be a meeting in Hartford with Consultant Tom Hart to present data regarding the turbidity monitoring.

Motion to accept committee reports by Commissioner Mattera, second by Commissioner Bartush. Vote Unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Commission reviewed DEEP Permit Consultation Form for 7-9 Nykled Terrace. The Commission determined the work described will adversely impact a shellfish area. The following summary are recommendations to mitigate damage to this natural shellfish bed:

- >100ft(20 floating dock okay as it accommodates two boats
- Proposed rock removal represents significant habitat destruction and is opposed by the Commission. These rocks are well outside the footprint of the proposed structure.
- Commission formally requests expanded rock mapping outside the areas in Drawing #7.

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- No boat size guaranteed by the Commission. Smaller vessels than depicted may be more appropriate for the local conditions.
- Due to the local fetch and extreme wind and wave conditions frequently seen in the area, the Commission requests the boat owners submit an alternate dockage location to be used during storms. Significant damage to local natural shellfish beds could result from sunken and/or leaking vessels in this area.
- Total encroachment length and width should be identified.
- Ramp approved with winter removal and offsite storage.
- Floating dock approved with winter removal and offsite storage.
- 18" floating dock stops.
- Any construction barges must be removed for low tide to a mooring. Mooring location and technical specifications to be approved by the Norwalk Harbormaster.
- No vessel or structure other than float stops may touch the bottom at MLW.
- The Commission will conduct site work inspections to review compliance.

Commission reviewed DEEP Pre-Submission Consultation Form for 69 Bluff Avenue for the construction of piling-supported 4' by 26' pier, 3.5' by 35' ramp and 8' by 20' piling-anchored floating dock for private recreational boating.

The Commission determined the work described will adversely impact a shellfish area. The following summary are recommendations to mitigate damage to this natural shellfish bed:

- 26' pier.
- 76' total encroachment identified on drawing.
- 36' long aluminum ramp with winter removal and offsite storage.
- 8 by 20' floating dock with winter removal and offsite storage.
- 18" floating dock stops.
- 13' setback from western property line seems small.
- Any jetty/riprap rocks removed for pile placement must be placed atop existing structure or removed from the site. No existing or additional riprap approved to be placed on the natural shellfish bed, permanently nor temporarily.
- Any construction barges must be removed for low tide to a mooring. Mooring location and technical specifications to be approved by the Norwalk Harbormaster.
- No vessel or structure other than float stops may touch the bottom at MLW.
- 5' right-of-way head clearance below pier waterward of last jetty rocks.
- Drawings are not official stamped surveys.
- The Norwalk Shellfish Commission will conduct site work inspections to review compliance.

The permit expired on February 1, 2020 for the CP243 project to set cables. The contractor had some issues with time and the Norwalk sub cable will be installed starting December 1, 2020.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners attended the 16th Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions on January 11, 2020 at Jones Auditorium at 123 Huntington St, New Haven, CT. Study revealed shellfish don't retain micro plastics.

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Commissioner Bartush stated that the Bureau of Aquaculture is looking at implementing a computer modeling strategy to gauge rainfall. Closures to be based on NOAA NE River Forecast Center and Multisensor Precipitation Estimator.

New Shellfish Commissioner Joe Madaffari is set to begin his term in April 2020.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 5, 2020 @7:00pm at the Norwalk Health Department.

**ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Mattera,
Vote Unanimous 8:00 PM**

Minutes by Thomas Closter