

**City of Norwalk
Shellfish Commission Meeting
March 5, 2020
Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police:

Advisory: Capt. Dave Hopp

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Tim Pramer, Mike Oravez, Doug Stabell, Tony Mobilia, Louise Washer, Robert Norrholm, Doug Stabell Jr., Christopher MacDonnell

A QUORUM WAS NOT ESTABLISHED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Louise Washer talked about State Bill 301 which would ban Chlorpyrifos in Connecticut and how harmful it is to the environment and waterways. Commission will send an email to the Environment Committee in support of the ban.

Tim Pramer, Captain Dave Hopp, Mike Oravez and other shellfish harvesters talked about their concerns of increased fees to the Commercial seed oyster permit – \$250 per boat and \$2 per bag and the Commercial clamming permit – \$800 per year +10%. Harvesters will bring recommendations to the April Commission meeting.

Christopher MacDonnell talked about the Village Creek License Application for structures, dredging & fill permit application. The application was to modify a dock configuration, add one additional 3' by 30' finger dock & piling on the west side of the main dock and four 2' by 12' finger docks on the north side. There will be a total of 186 square feet of new floats and 80 square feet of floats will be removed.

Commissioners Bartush and Johnson determined that the work described will/has adversely impacted a shellfish area. Recommendations to mitigate damage to this natural shellfish bed are as follows:

- **No objection to moving forward to full application**
- **Any construction barges potentially aground at low water 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 piles or float stops may touch the bottom at MLW.**
- **No change to perimeter applied for nor reviewed.**
- **No dredging applied for nor reviewed.**
- **No pile removal applied for nor reviewed.**
- **No benthic changes applied for nor reviewed.**
- **Items outside permit were self-reported.**
- **No field nor desk CT DEEP NOV.**

PAGE 2 OF 3

- **Recommend a survey of all boats in the marina for their technical capability of overboard waste discharge.**

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

February Minutes will be approved at April meeting.

TREASURER

Report read in to the record:

| | NAME | DATE | AMOUNT | REASON |
|-----------------|--|---------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| BALANCE | | 1/31/20 | \$17,051.16 | |
| DEPOSIT | Fisherman's World Pramer Oyster Co | | \$ 2,467.00 \$ 48.00 | |
| INTEREST | | | \$ | |
| EXPENSES | Frontier | 2/1/20 | \$ 76.02 | Phone |
| BALANCE | | 2/29/20 | | \$19,490.14 |
| | Last Year | 2/28/19 | | \$24,885.51 |
| | Two Years Ago | 2/28/18 | | \$22,181.66 |

SECRETARY

Chairman Johnson has no report.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

3.19 inches of rain in February. Average since 1987 is 2.91 inches of rain for February. There were 83 calls in February. There were three closures for Cooke's Ground for over 0.5 inch on February 11, 13 & 27, 2020. There were no closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) and no closures in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches). There were no reports of a bypass for February.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein talked about the future of the Fox Hill flood control dam. The cost of improving the dam is 6,275,000 million and the cost of removal is 1,605,000 million. Concerns are the impact of communities downriver like Wilton & Norwalk and the effect if there is no flood control and the impact to Norwalk.

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.

PAGE 3 OF 3

He also talked about State Bill 301 which would ban Chlorpyrifos in Connecticut. Scientific studies have linked it to brain, neurological, organ, and developmental damage in children, autism, cancer, Parkinson's disease, and a whole host of other negative human health issues.

PERMITS

Commissioner Mattera absent, no update.

POLICE

Sgt. LaPak absent but reports 12 hours of patrol for February. No arrests and no recreational clamming observed. No commercial issues or violations.

ADVISORY

Water reported at 39 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

The Department of Transportation Walk Bridge plans are online but they are not the final plans, there will be revisions.

NEW BUSINESS

None

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

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 2, 2020 @7:00pm at the Norwalk Health Department.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:03 PM

Minutes by Thomas Closter