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City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting June 4, 2020 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:15 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Nick Sacchinelli, Joe Madaffari

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police:

Advisory:

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Tony Mobilia, John Romano, Tom Ryder

MEETING WAS HELD BY ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Ryder from LandTech Consulting discussed a plan for a new recreational dock at 1 Cudlipp St. After discussion, the Shellfish Commission determined that the work described will adversely impact a shellfish area but has the following recommendations to mitigate damage to the natural shellfish bed:

- No objection or disqualification noted to move forward to full application
- Active natural shellfish bed including oysters and ribbed mussels
- Any construction boats or 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 Five Mile River Harbor Superintendent.
- No vessel or structure other than piles or float stops may touch the bottom at MLW.
- No dredging applied for nor reviewed
- No piles waterward of pier applied for nor reviewed
- No benthic changes applied for nor reviewed
- Two-vessel floating dock with winter removal and offsite storage
- 18" float stops
- 5' right-of-way head clearance below pier, just below MHW
- Design does not include a device to keep docked vessels off the bottom
- Recommend Spartina remediation to connect established growth in upriver and downriver plots from stone walkway being removed

Motion by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Madaffari that work will impact a shellfish area, a device is required to keep boats off the bottom and there should be Spartina continuity, but Commission will make recommendations. Unanimous Vote.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

May Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Bartush, 2nd by Comm. Madaffari. Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

Report:

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	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		5/7/20	\$18,941.82	
DEPOSIT			\$	
INTEREST			\$	
EXPENSES	Frontier	5/1/20	\$ 85.64	Phone
BALANCE		6/1/20		\$18,856.18
	Last Year	6/1/19		\$22,878.27
	Two Years Ago	6/1/18		\$22,257.34

SECRETARY

No report

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

1.63 inches of rain in May. Average since 1987 is 4.51 inches of rain for May. There were 875 calls in May. There was one closure for Cooke's Ground for over 0.5 inch on May 9, 2020. There were no closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) and the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches).

There were no reports of a bypass for May.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein said he talked with the Bureau of Aquaculture inquiring whether COVID-19 has an impact on the Shellfish Industry. They will not be testing shellfish at all because experts say that it is a respiratory illness and no evidence of Covid-19 transmission through food. He also talked about facts relating to Covid-19 in the wastewater treatment process and how it could be an indicator within a community.

Chairman Schnierlein talked about the online public meeting being held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:30pm. The Connecticut Department of Transportation will discuss the potential uses of Manresa Island as a staging area during the Walk Bridge Replacement Project. Discussion also centered on possible barge locations. The 92 acre parcel contains coal ash fill and other contaminants and is owned by NRG energy.

PERMITS

Commissioner Mattera absent, no report.

POLICE

Sgt. LaPak absent, sent report. Twelve hours of patrol for May, no arrests. One verbal warning for digging bait out of the Sandbar at Calf Pasture Beach.

ADVISORY

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Water reported at 60 degrees in the Harbor and 62 degrees in the Five Mile River.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

John Romano said discussions are ongoing with the Department of Transportation.

Motion to accept committee reports by Commissioner Madaffari, second by Commissioner Sacchinelli. Vote Unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush said there will be an informal meeting with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to discuss the turbidity data in terms of the permit conditions based on the Consultant's analysis.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush discussed concerns over the Dunavan Boating Center ramps being blocked. These boat ramps are a means of egress and if there were an emergency, boats can't be removed. There could be environmental concerns and safety issues. Harbor Management will send a letter to the Parks and Recreation Department. He also discussed issues with the recreational beds being closed by Parks and Recreation at Calf Pasture and Shady beaches until Phase two on June 17, 2020.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 2, 2020 @7:15pm (Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT: 7:46 PM Motion by Steve Bartush, second by Commissioner Sacchinelli, Unanimous Vote.

Minutes by Thomas Closter