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City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting July 2, 2020 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:15 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Nick Sacchinelli, Joe Madaffari, Tom Mattera
Staff: Thomas Closter

Police:

Advisory:

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Tony Mobilia, John Romano, Geoff Steadman

MEETING WAS HELD BY ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

June Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Bartush, 2nd by Comm. Sacchinelli. Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

Commissioner Mattera reports phone bill will be on next month's report.

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		6/3/20	\$18,856.18	
DEPOSIT			\$	
INTEREST			\$ 8.00	
EXPENSES			\$	
BALANCE		6/1/20		\$18,864.18
	Last Year	6/1/19		\$22,878.27
	Two Years Ago	6/1/18		\$22,238.80

SECRETARY

No report

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

1.83 inches of rain in June. Average since 1987 is 4.26 inches of rain for June. There were 685 calls in June. There was one closure for Cooke's Ground for over 0.5 inch on June 5, 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 June.

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WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein said the online public meeting with the Connecticut Department of Transportation discussed the potential uses of Manresa Island as a staging area during the Walk Bridge Replacement Project. Discussion also centered on possible barge locations and vehicle traffic possible affecting the neighborhood.

Chairman Schnierlein discussed a draft for a water use policy in Norwalk. He would like the Mayor's Water Quality Committee to encourage the Common Council to adopt policies that could advise citizens of a water shortage, such as the Norwalk River at a flow rate in the 25th percentile so they may begin water conservation before we are in a major drought. He also has concerns with Norwalk's population increase with new development projects and wants to create a sustainable future of Norwalk's water supply.

Chairman Schnierlein and Geoff Steadman talked about turbidity measuring and restrictions and concerns when dredging takes place for the Walk Bridge Project. Geoff discussed Best Management Practices and measures taken to limit turbidity. The Department of Transportation has three monitoring stations to measure turbidity data to establish background data. Consultant Tom Hart has analyzed the data and has preliminary observations to discuss with DOT. They will review the data and implications for the permit.

PERMITS

Commissioner Mattera reports permits have been slow as a result of Covid-19. Commissioner Johnson said last weekend nine people were clamming, all had permits.

POLICE

Sgt. LaPak absent, no report. Commissioner Mattera said that the Marine Police have been very busy, boats ran ashore and a canoe capsized. They have a busy Fourth of July this weekend, Taylor Farm has been maximizing their parking of 75 cars. Commissioner Bartush congratulated Sergeant LaPak and Officer Michael Silva for their Officer of the Month Award for their water rescue west of Sheffield Island on May 6, 2020.

ADVISORY

Water reported at 69.25 degrees in the Harbor.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

John Romano said discussions are ongoing with the Department of Transportation and DEEP. Geoff Steadman said the Shellfish Commission and Harbor Commission should have a combined meeting with DOT regarding the proposed changes to the permit application. A letter was sent from the Harbor Commission to DEEP asking them to take no action on the re-submitted DOT application until both Commissions are able to ask questions and respond to the application.

Commissioner Bartush said the Shellfish Commission and the Harbor Commission submitted a list of questions to DOT at the last public meeting on June 16th, 2020 and have not heard back.

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Motion to accept committee reports by Commissioner Bartush, 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.

Commissioner Johnson said there has been no communication with Eversource.

Commissioner Bartush will send a letter to Eversource inquiring about their plans.

Motion by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Mattera, asking Eversource for a status update. Unanimous Vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush said that the Shellfish Commission will send a letter to DEEP asking that no action be taken on the re-submitted application from DOT until a review can be made on the modifications.

Motion by Commissioner Mattera, second by Commissioner Sacchinelli to send letter to DEEP. Unanimous Vote.

Commissioner Bartush discussed Barge locations for the Walk Bridge Project and stated the Bureau of Aquaculture has no objection with the Manresa Location but there are still plans for Barge locations in the Harbor and concerns remain regarding the moorings.

Commissioner Bartush discussed the turbidity data and it is not clear whether or not the exceedances of the threshold will spur an investigation or stop the work and then spur an investigation which the Shellfish Commission prefers.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 6, 2020 @7:15pm (Zoom)

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

Minutes by Thomas Closter