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City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting October 1, 2020 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:15 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Joe Madaffari

Staff: Thomas Closter

Police:

Advisory:

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman, John Romano

MEETING WAS HELD BY ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

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

TREASURER

Report read in to the record:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		9/2/20	\$23,109.18	
DEPOSIT			\$	
INTEREST			\$	
EXPENSES			\$	
BALANCE		10/2/20		\$23,109.18
	Last Year	10/2/19		\$19,114.03
	Two Years Ago	10/2/18		\$24,741.18

SECRETARY

No Report

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

3.20 inches of rain in September. Average since 1987 is 4.87 inches of rain for September. There were 431 calls in September. There were three closures for Cooke's Ground for over 0.5 inch on September 3, 10 & 30, 2020. There was one closure in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) on September 10, 2020 and no closures in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches) for September.

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There were no reports of a bypass for September.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein discussed the wastewater treatment plant and their renewal permit (DEEP NPDES) and if the plant can handle the increase in population with new developments. District Water Companies state there is enough water but there are concerns, especially with the current drought conditions.

Chairman Schnierlein said he and John Romano have received emails from Rick Reardon regarding concerns that 21,000 gallons of leachate per day are generated and may be leaking into the Norwalk River from Oyster Shell Park. Chairman Schnierlein contacted Kristin Derosia-Banick from the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture and she stated the shellfish and water are tested and monitored and there is no indication of any issues.

Chairman Schnierlein said Alexis Cherichetti is now or will be Deputy Director of Planning & Zoning.

PERMITS

Commissioner Mattera absent, no report.

POLICE

Sgt. LaPak absent but reports the Marine Police had 16 hours of enforcement for September. Three verbal warnings were issued on September 4, 2020 for clamming on the sandbar near the Shea Memorial.

ADVISORY

No report.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

After a letter was sent to Mr. Ian Cole of Eversource Energy from John Romano, Chair of the Harbor Management Commission, and Pete Johnson, Chair of the Shellfish Commission, asking for an update of the status of plans by Eversource Energy concerning the proposed Norwalk Harbor crossing to relocate two existing 115-kV overhead electric transmission lines, the response was that Eversource declined to participate in the Harbor Management Commission meeting and they are still working on their plans. The relocation project is a critical element of the Walk Bridge Project and discussions are essential so both Commissions may complete the required comments and recommendations for DEEP. The Commission has asked DEEP to not make a decision on the application until plans are reviewed and comments made.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Working on Walk Bridge project and permit.

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NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush said a joint letter between Shellfish and Harbor Management Commissions should be sent to the Wastewater Treatment Plant regarding concerns about their design capacity as it relates to the forecasted increases of use based on the development curve that Norwalk is experiencing as well as climate change.

Motion from Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Madaffari to send letter to the Wastewater Treatment Plant with Harbor Management. Unanimous Vote.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 5, 2020 @7:15pm (Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT: 7:30 PM Motion by Steve Bartush, second by Commissioner Madaffari, Unanimous Vote.

Minutes by Thomas Closter