

PAGE 1 OF 3

City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting December 3, 2020 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:24 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Joe Madaffari, Nick Sacchinelli, Tom Mattera
Staff: Thomas Closter
Police: Michael Silva
Advisory:
Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman

MEETING WAS HELD BY ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

November Minutes approved with no corrections by Comm. Madaffari, 2nd by Comm. Sacchinelli. Unanimous Vote.

TREASURER

Report read in to the record:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		11/1/20	\$23,109.18	
DEPOSIT			\$	
INTEREST			\$	
EXPENSES			\$	
BALANCE		12/2/20		\$23,109.18
	Last Year	12/2/19		\$18,537.73
	Two Years Ago	12/2/18		\$26,791.44

SECRETARY

No Report

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

5.22 inches of rain in November. Average since 1987 is 3.54 inches of rain for November. There were 260 calls in November. There were five closures for Cooke's Ground for over 0.5 inch on November 1, 11, 23, 26 & 30, 2020. There were three closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) on November 11, 23 & 30, 2020 and no closures in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches) for November 2020.

PAGE 2 OF 3

There were no reports of a bypass for November.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein talked about the First Taxing District Water Department and muddy water issues for the last three weeks. He talked with Anthony Franceschini, who is in charge of delivery, and he stated that they have not been able to find the cause. There have not been a lot of calls or complaints so they don't know how big the issue is. People should let the water run until the water becomes clear. They have flushed the pipes recently.

Also talked about the Regional Conservation Partnership and their Geographic Information System mapping to identify the land that is most valuable to conserve and strategies moving forward. Common Council representative and member of the Norwalk Land Trust, Lisa Shanahan, is involved with how to use these maps to better understand the conservation issues facing our city. The City of Norwalk utilizes the System and layers include health indicators, flood zones, air quality, tree canopy, fire hydrants, parks, ecology, etc. Chairman Schnierlein said a beneficial layer would be public access ways.

Also discussed the possibility of waterfront buffer zones along the river and coastline. Louise Washer said that the Redevelopment Agency has discussed the idea of putting a bike/walk path along the river below Wall St to connect to the Norwalk Rivershed Valley Trail. They talked about plans to improve storm water management and future requirements to capture storm water to keep from migrating into the river.

Water testing was done at Oyster Shell Park and there were no issues found.

PERMITS

Commissioner Mattera will get the last of the permits and will reconcile the accounts. Commission discussed waiving the fees for seed permits because of Covid-19.

Motion from Commissioner Madaffari, second by Commissioner Mattera to waive the fee for seed permits for 2020. Unanimous Vote.

POLICE

Officer Silva reports Cove Marina has at least seventy boats still to haul. People are keeping their boats in longer than usual. Work on the Walk Bridge is ready to commence.

ADVISORY

Water temperature reported at 52.3 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Geoff Steadman reports Harbor Management discussed the risk assessment that the Department of Transportation provided for the two passenger boats near the bridges and they felt it was an unacceptable risk to public safety to operate boats in the construction zone while the bridge work is ongoing. They should be looking for an alternative site. The turbidity analysis is ongoing by Professor Hart.

PAGE 3 OF 3

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

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush stated Consultation Forms for 28.5 Shorefront Park and the Norwalk Cove Marina dredging project have gone out.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush said new maps are needed for 2021 and he would like to include language in Spanish and incorporate new changes.

Commissioner Madaffari would like to see residents have the ability to purchase permits online.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 7, 2021 @7:15pm (Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT: 8:02 PM Motion by Steve Bartush, second by Commissioner Madaffari, Unanimous Vote.

Minutes by Thomas Closter