

PAGE 1 OF 3

City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting January 7, 2021 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER 7:16 PM

ATTENDANCE

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

Police:

Advisory:

Guests: Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer, Sarah Crosby, Tim Pramer

MEETING WAS HELD BY ZOOM

PUBLIC COMMENT

Louise Washer and Sarah Crosby asked for the Shellfish Commission's support for the Norwalk River Watershed Association's application for a FY2021 Clean Water Section 319 grant. Hoping for funding for continued water quality monitoring of the Norwalk River by Harbor Watch to gain an understanding of the nutrient and bacteria pollutant loadings and to help track down sources of pollution. Also, to help identify and develop plans for green infrastructure projects, promote sustainable landscaping and lawn care through the Pollinator Pathway project and raise awareness of proper septic maintenance.

Motion of support for grant by Commissioner Bartush, second by Commissioner Madaffari. Unanimous Vote.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

December 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		12/1/20	\$22,763.11	
DEPOSIT			\$	
INTEREST			\$	
EXPENSES	Frontier		\$ 91.04	Phone
BALANCE		1/1/21		\$22,672.07
	Last Year	1/1/20		\$18,548.73
	Two Years Ago	1/1/19		\$25,358.85

SECRETARY

Commission discussed concerns that docks are not being pulled out in the winter and are sitting on the bottom. All permits contain wording and a time frame that stipulate that

PAGE 2 OF 3

docks will be pulled from the water. The Commission needs assistance from the Harbormaster to ensure this will be done.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports:

4.32 inches of rain in December. Average since 1987 is 3.92 inches of rain for December. There were 235 calls in December. There were three closures for Cooke's Ground for over 0.5 inch on December 4, 16, & 24, 2020. There were two closures in the CAA (1-1.49 inches) on December 16 & 24, 2020 and one closure in the CAA1DN (over 1.5 inches) for December 4, 2020.

There were no reports of a bypass for December.

WASTEWATER

No Report.

WATER QUALITY

Chairman Schnierlein said they had Sarah Crosby, Ph.D., Director of Harbor Watch for Earthplace talk about the summer Water Quality Interns and what their role is. Harbor Watch monitors rivers and streams and the majority of the work is inland and not in the harbor. Focus is on sewage pollution and bacterial monitoring. Also, will look at temperature, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll and turbidity. Data distribution is by request with any town partner and at end of season with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The unified water study which is funded by the EPA has the goal of generating data and Save the Sound translates it to their report card. Norwalk can look at land use planning, impervious cover, green infrastructures, living shorelines and climate change to improve the grade. Water quality has been better in recent years.

Louise Washer asked for the Mayor's Water Quality Committee support for the Norwalk River Watershed Association's application for a FY2021 Clean Water Section 319 grant. Hoping for funding for continued water quality monitoring of the Norwalk River by Harbor Watch to gain an understanding of the nutrient and bacteria pollutant loadings and to help track down sources of pollution.

PERMITS

Commissioner Mattera said all invoices have been paid. He provided a spreadsheet to show comparisons for 2019 and 2020 for clamming permits.

POLICE

Sgt. LaPak absent but reports no arrests for December and 2 verbal warnings.

ADVISORY

Water temperature reported at 37 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Geoff Steadman reports Professor Tom Hart is continuing to review turbidity data as it relates to causes like tide, wind, rainfall and bridge openings. He is going to recommend conditions to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection permit to protect

PAGE 3 OF 3

water quality.

Geoff also stated the Department of Transportation would like to attend next month's Harbor Management and Shellfish meetings to provide a status update for the Walk Bridge project. He stated concerns are the vessel relocation plan and the project needs an oversight monitor to oversee status of work and any problems.

Geoff said there is a public informational hearing on January 14, 2021 at 3:00pm on the renewal on the discharge permit.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bartush discussed adding a new 2 day clamming permit. After discussion:

Motion by Commissioner Madaffari, second by Commissioner Mattera, to have a two day clamming permit for \$20.00 for two consecutive days for non-residents only. Unanimous Vote.

This new permit depends on the City Covid guidelines for entering Calf Pasture and Veterans Park.

Commissioner Bartush received a request from a research Attorney at Roger Williams Law School to gather information from Shellfish Commissions regarding a Management Plan, ordinances and policies, and handling aquaculture sites and if there are acreage limitations.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 4, 2021 @7:15pm (Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT: 8:10 PM Motion by Commissioner Madaffari, second by Commissioner Sachinelli, Unanimous Vote.

Minutes by Thomas Closter