

**CITY OF NORWALK  
SHELLFISH COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

**ATTENDANCE:** Pete Johnson, Chairman; Steve Bartush, Nicholas Sacchinelli

**STAFF:** Thomas Closter, Director of Environmental Services

**POLICE:** Sgt. Peter Lapak, Norwalk Marine Police

**ADVISORY:** Joe Schnierlein, Water Quality Chair; Geoff Steadman

**GUESTS:** John Hanafin, Project Managers; Tony Ciriello, Milone and MacBroom; Lauren DiGovanni, HNTB; Devin Santa, Richard Bertoli, Jeffrey Knapp, Mike Grzywinski, CT DEEP; Mike Silva, Andy Davis, Kevin Carifa

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Closter announced that a quorum was present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. John Hanafin gave a brief update and said that they had communicated for the last three years. A vessel test was done, a risk safety test was done, and the analysis of those report resulted in the decision to move forward with both docking locations. This will give the boat operators the most flexibility.

Mr. Tony Ciriello, then displayed schematics of the proposed project.

A concern was expressed about the marine police vessel being able to dock. Mr. Ciriello said that they had tried to schedule a test with the boat, but were confident that the marine police would be able to dock.

Mr. Johnson asked if they had checked with OSHA for the requirements for the distance between the cranes and the commercial vessels carrying passengers. He asked what the safety buffer zone for this project was.

It was pointed out that there is a required distance between the Federal navigational channel and the boat moorings. Mr. Ciriello said that the Coast Guard and others had reviewed the plans. They had been requested to move the dock closer to the shore, which was done.

Mr. Bartush asked about the usage of the two docks. Mr. Hanafin said that they were using two docks so that when work was being done north of the bridge, the southern dock would be used, and if there was work underway at the southern portion of the project, the northern dock would be open for use.

Mr. Bartush asked who would be making the decisions to dock at the two locations. Mr. Hanafin said that the decision would include the Norwalk Police and other groups. Safety is the primary concern.

Mr. Bertolli said that he had checked the OSHA requirements and they defer to the Coast Guard regarding barge operations. They will look into this more fully, but OSHA defers to the Coast Guard.

Mr. Hanafin said that they were moving forward with Manresa Island as a staging area.

Mr. Bartush asked what Eversource had said. Mr. Hanafin said that they were working with Eversource and given them the dates, but not heard back.

There were no other questions at this time.

Mr. Bartush thanked Mr. Hanafin for coming to the meeting to provide the information.

There was no one else from the public that wished to comment.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**\*\* MR. BARTUSH MOVED THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2021**

**\*\* MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2021 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Closter explained that Mr. Madaffari was attending another meeting, so Mr. Closter presented the Treasurer's Report to the Commissioners.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Bartush said that there was no additional information. Mr. Hiltz recently has submitted three applications, two of which have been forwarded to the Commissioners.

Mr. Johnson said that he thought that from now on, they should include photos with the applications.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A) **Health Department** - Mr. Closter presented his report. There was one closure on January 16th and no bypass events.

B) **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – No report at this time.

C) **Water Quality** – Mr. Schnierlein said that the Water Quality Committee had a meeting just prior to this meeting. Some members of Save the Sound and UCONN consultants provided an explanation on how the grading on the Harbor was done. Both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Schnierlein have a link for that information. Hopefully it will be the start of communication between the groups.

D) **Permits** – No report at this time.

E) **Police** – Mr. Silva said that there was a person on the sandbar who was clamming with a permit. The Police directed him to the permitted areas.

F) **Advisory** – Water temperature reported at 38 degrees.

G) **Harbor Management** – No report at this time.

**\*\* THERE WAS A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS PRESENTED.**

**\*\* MR. SACCHINELLI SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

• **Walk Bridge** – No report at this time.

• **Eversource** – Mr. Steadman reported that Mr. Hanafin had stated during his presentation to the Harbor Commission that Eversource had received a date to remove the wires from the poles. Mr. Johnson said that they have to have the wires under the river before they remove the wires from the poles. Discussion followed.

Mr. Steadman said that they were no longer proposing to build a bulkhead along the two properties, which will reduce the costs. Mr. Johnson said that once they put the cables

down, the docks will be under their control. He pointed out that the water, communications and other items that are underground north of the Stroffolino Bridge.

- **Fees** – No report at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to report at this time.

### **NEXT MEETING**

- The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2021 @ 7:15 pm via Zoom.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* THERE WAS A SECOND.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services