

**CITY OF NORWALK
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 6, 2021**

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

- ATTENDANCE:** Peter Johnson, Chair; Steve Bartush, Joe Madaffari, Thomas Mattera, Nick Sacchinelli
- STAFF:** Thomas Closter
- POLICE:** None.
- ADVISORY:** Joe Schnierlein, Water Quality Chair; Geoff Steadman, Consultant
- GUESTS:** John Romano, Harbor Commission Chair; John Hanafin, DOT; Christian Brown, DOT; Richard Bertoli, Andy Davis, Chris Samorajczyk, Kevin Carifa, Lauren DiGiovanni, Tim Pramer, Vlad Kaminsky, Lynnelle Jones

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **April 1, 2021.**

**** MR. MADAFFARI MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 1, 2021 MINUTES.
** MR. BARTUSH SECONDED.
** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 1, 2021 MINUTES AS
PRESENTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Hanafin from the Connecticut DOT then addressed the Committee. He said that there were some changes made to the previously presented plans. Mr. Chris Brown then reviewed the changes via a PowerPoint presentation about the Walk Bridge Update as of May 6, 2021. The major changes were located in the Supplemental Application Documentation where they have adjusted Question 2A, regarding the Construction

Activities. The Swing Span Removal and the Lift Span Installation were the primary items that had changes. This will involve a partially closed channel with height restrictions and possibly a partially closed channel with no height restrictions or a period when the channel is completely closed by construction activities. Mr. Brown listed a variety of situations when any of those scenarios might take place.

Mr. Brown pointed out that the engineering that was used to create the four track swing span was phenomenal for the time. There are two potential removal methods. He then gave a detailed explanation of how the swing span will be removed. During the removal both the railroad and the river channels will be closed.

Scheme 1 has the channel closed for 90 days to remove the swing span and installing the new tracks. The railroad will be closed for a minimum of 96 hours. The work is planned to occur during the November to April window and focused on January, February and March, which are the off peak months.

Scheme 2 has the channel remaining open with a height restriction for 120 days as the swing portion of the bridge will not be operable. The railroad will remain open and the channels will only be closed during the installation of the span.

Mr. Brown said that they had met with several upriver water dependent businesses regarding this.

The removal of the center structure will be done after the spans have been completed and will be done with a marine enclosure turbidly curtain around the site and all the masonry will be removed.

If there is ice on the river, it will present a challenge but the Coast Guard does have ice cutters that will be able keep the channel open.

Mr. Brown was asked what situation might require the DOT to change from the preferred Scheme 2 to Scheme 1. Mr. Brown said that he did not foresee any situation that would require switching to Scheme 1, but the DOT wished to have a plan in case something unforeseen occurs. Rail traffic and navigation are the primary concerns.

Mr. Bartush said that there had been a fire at Oyster Shell Park and the Fire Department found that having the Marine Boat had been critical for handling the situation. Mr. Brown said that the team had considered this and hoped that there would not need to be a situation requiring this.

Mr. Bartush asked about the dredging schedule might change if Scheme 1 had to be used instead of Scheme 2. Mr. Brown said that there would be no impact to the dredging schedule.

Mr. Bartush said that there was a “de-leading” schedule sent. He asked if Phase 2 might be delayed due to unexpected lead conditions. Mr. Brown said that the span has been de-leaded over time. He said that they were not anticipating any changes for the existing span. He gave the details.

Mr. Bartush said that the Harbor Commission had been told they might receive information about Eversource’s plan.

Mr. Hanafin said that he had been in touch with Eversource and that they were working on their project timeline. He assumed that they would be starting the process and claimed they were in sync with the DOT.

Mr. Bartush said that Eversource had indicated that they needed to move their lines fairly earlier in the project, but later indicated that they might not need to do this. Mr. Bertoli said that the micro tunnels that the DOT was constructing for the bridge power had taken longer and the timeline changed from a one year schedule to a year and a half. Mr. Brown then described the process. Eversource’s lines are unique and the North Water Street site evaluation became over complicated and ruled out.

Mr. Bartush asked about the status of the Manresa Island. Mr. Hanafin said that they would be using it.

Mr. Bartush asked about the low head room barge and tug. Mr. Bertoli described this and said that the low head room tug would only be used during the period when the construction is underway.

A discussion followed about the DiNardo property that will be used and may require bulkheads and the Eversource permitting process.

Mr. Johnson thanked the DOT staff for their

Ms. Lynnelle Jones then came forward and gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding a request for a Municipal Review of the Coastal Review. There have been four major drainage projects on Nathan Hale Drive that had not be approved. Nathan Hale Drive is prone to flooding.

Ms. Jones said that she was not against the Yacht Club. Mr. Madaffari asked how many of the residents were members of the Yacht Club. Ms. Jones said that there had recently been a higher number of membership turnovers and many were out of town residents.

**** MR. BARTUSH MOVED TO HAVE THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION
ALONG WITH THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION AND THE
MAYOR’S COMMITTEE ON WATER QUALITY COMMISSION A SITE VISIT
TO INCLUDE WATER QUALITY TESTING INCLUDING E. COLIFORMS**

AND NITROGEN ALONG WITH OTHER PARAMETERS TO BE DETERMINED.

**** MR. MADAFFARI SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discussion followed about gaining access to the area and also who should be part of the site visit. Mr. Johnson pointed out that there had just be a law passed regarding having a holding tank for power washing boats.

Mr. Steadman said that the goal of the site visit for the draining issue would be take samples from the discharge drains. They will also contact the Norwalk Yacht Club to discuss the situation.

Mr. Mattera asked who would be the enforcement agency. Mr. Johnson said that it would be the DEEP.

Mr. Romano left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

TREASURER' S REPORT

Mr. Mattera said that they were up to date on all the bills. There has been no income from 2020. Mr. Closter gave the current figure. He said that they need to schedule a meeting to discuss the boat fees. Discussion followed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) Health Department – 3.41 inches for April [2:45] no bypass.

B) Wastewater Treatment Plant – No report

C) Water Quality – Mr. Schnierlein gave a brief summary of the previous meeting. He said that the mitten crabs were a problem as once they are introduced to an area, they go upriver.

D) Permits – Mr. Mattera said that last year, the numbers were abnormally high because of the lock down. Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Bloom would be seeding clams in a few locations.

E) Police -- No report.

F) Advisory – No report.

G) Harbor Management – Mr. Steadman said that Dr. Pinto has participated in a meeting about using the waterfront. The City has hired a consultant. He said that they need to be aware of and participate in decisions to change any water front zoning

**** MR. MADAFFARI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE REPORTS AS PRESENTED.**

**** MR. MATTERA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

- **Walk Bridge** – DOT
- **Eversource** – No report.
- **Fees** – No report

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bartush said that they had just received a new application.

Next Meeting – May 6, 2021 @ 7:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. MADAFFARI MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. BARTUSH SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services