

**CITY OF NORWALK
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2022**

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference

ATTENDANCE: Steve Bartush, Chair; Joe Madaffari, Jonathan Pageler (7:23 p.m.);
Nick Sacchinelli (7:35 p.m.)

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department; Tim Pramer, Geoff Steadman, Joe
Schnierlein, Water Quality Chair; Mr. Bajek

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bartush called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. A quorum was not present.

• Passing of John Romano

Mr. Bartush recognized Mr. Steadman. Mr. Steadman displayed a memorial for Mr. Romano and read the text on the memorial. Mr. Bartush requested a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Romano.

Mr. Pageler joined the meeting at 7:23 p.m. A quorum was now present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• June 2, 2022

**** MR. MADAFFARI MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2022.**

**** MR. PAGELER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2022 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present who wished to comment at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Mooney presented his report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) Health Department

Mr. Mooney presented his report. There were two closures, one on 7/18 and a second on 7/26 due to rainfall. He noted that there were no bypass events but there was something called an “exceedance of permit” on July 6th. Some shellfish beds that were shut down as a result of that out of an abundance of caution. He gave the details associated with this shut down.

B) Wastewater Treatment Plant – No report.

C) Water Quality

Mr. Schnierlein said that the water temperatures were getting very high and this results in a reduction of dissolved oxygen levels. This could cause a fish kill.

Mr. Schnierlein spoke about the Project CLEAR which assigns students to come to towns to study run off issues resulting from imperviable surfaces. This information will be passed on to City Hall for further action.

Mr. Schnierlein said that there had been a Consent Decree from DEEP indicating there were issues with sewage discharges. He noted that the Water Quality had not been notified about this.

Mr. Schnierlein said Ms. Lauricella requested ideas for the next generation of the MS-4 document.

A new species of shrimp, peppermint shrimp, has been found in the Sound. They are usually found in warmer waters, such as Florida. They are bright red. The ones that were caught during the past week were all gravid. Mr. Schnierlein said that they may die off during the winter.

D) Permits

Mr. Bartush said the permits were on sale at Fisherman’s World. He added that he had met daughter of the owner of the new bait and tackle shop. He encouraged everyone to stop in to greet them.

E) Police

Mr. Mooney said there were no arrests. He added that that they were up to speed with flags. Sgt. Lapak will be retiring at the end of the month. Mr. Bartush congratulated Sgt. Lapak for all his years of service.

F) Advisory – No report.

G) Harbor Management – Mr. Steadman reported that the permit has been issued for the replacement of the Walk Bridge. He noted that the concerns and comments of Harbor Commission had not been acknowledged at all. There is also an issue with the role and authority of the Harbor Master. He reviewed the details with the Commissioners.

On August 8th, there will be an event in Fairfield sponsored by UCONN and the Bureau of Aquaculture.

Mr. Sacchinelli joined the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

**** MR. MADAFFARI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS.**

**** MR. PRAEGLER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

Walk Bridge – DOT – No report.

Eversource – No report.

35 Rowayton Ave. – No report.

NEW BUSINESS

• 27 Rowayton Ave.

Mr. Bajek came forward to present an application regarding a dock at 27 Rowayton Avenue. He said that they were proposing to extend the existing pier by 32 feet and reconfigure the dock to be more in line with the channel. He displayed site plans showing the existing dock configuration. The new dock will also act as a buffer for a large rock that is just off the shore.

Mr. Bartush asked what the encroachment would be. Mr. Bajek said that the dock is currently about 135 feet. He estimated that the total encroachment would be about 25 feet.

Discussion followed about the details of the map.

Mr. Bajek reminded everyone that this location was in the Five Mile River and the original permit required the owner to have the dock at this unusual angle. This has resulted in the vessels being damaged by southerly winds and other problems.

Mr. Bartush asked how much more water the owner would be gaining at low tide. Mr. Bajek said that he believe that it was 2 or 3 feet more depth.

Mr. Bartush asked for a specific measurement from the first pile to the southwest corner. Mr. Bajek said that he believed it would be about 164 feet.

Mr. Bartush recommended that they do a site inspection within the next two weeks. He asked if this application had been sent to the Health Department. Mr. Bajek said that he had sent in the application.

Mr. Bartush said that he would extend an invitation to attend the site inspection to the Five Mile River Commission.

**** MR. MADAFFARI MOVED TO TABLE TO ITEM PENDING A SITE INSPECTION.
** MR PAGELER SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9) Next Meeting – September 1, 2022 @ 7:15pm (Zoom)

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SACHINELLI MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MR. MADAFFARI SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services