

PAGE 1 OF 3

City of Norwalk
Shellfish Commission Meeting
April 8th, 2010

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM**ATTENDANCE**

Commission: Jack Casagrande, Pete Johnson, John Frank.

Staff: Tom Closter

Police: Sgt Pete LaPak, Officer John Taranto

Advisory, Harbormaster Mike Griffin, Capt. Dave Hopp

Guest: James Barker, Norm Bloom, Mark Errico

PUBLIC COMMENT (agenda waived, with commission approval, as courtesy to guest)

Mr. James A. Barker, representing Seastreak, a company that intends to try to establish a stop in Norwalk, at Cove Marina, for fast passenger ferry service from New York City to Martha's Vinyard, spoke briefly about that service, the boats used, and his company.

Seastreak is part of a group that includes Moran Towing, the largest towboat company on the east coast, with offices and vessels at every major port from Portsmouth, N.H. to Port Arthur, TX. Mr. Barker is a Darien resident and a principal in Seastreak.

Shellfish Commission concerns with this proposal are limited to effect, if any, on shellfish grounds. Mr. Barker has committed to keeping his vessels out of the East Channel, where there are oyster beds, and his attorney, Elizabeth Suchy, has already put that in writing, via email, but Barker will put that in a more formal letter agreement, if needed. He tells us the DEP is requiring a permit (?) and he has no objection to that being a condition on any permits issued. He passed around information about the boat they propose using, and offered to answer any questions. There were none. He left.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

March minutes approved without correction by Comm. Johnson, 2nd by Comm. Casagrande

TREASURER

Comm. Johnson reports:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		2/28/2010	\$16,689.64	
DEPOSIT	interest	March	\$17.00	
EXPENSE	AT&T (phone)	two months	(\$148.50)	
	Norwest Marine		(\$2,053.77)	Boat Maintenance
	Silvermine Press		(\$266.00)	Tide calendars
	Police OT	3/1/2010	(\$694.04)	
	Police OT	3/8/2010	(\$189.28)	
	Police OT	3/15/2010	(\$315.47)	
	Police OT	3/29/2010	(\$126.19)	

PAGE 2 OF 3

BALANCE	3/31/2010	\$12,913.39
last year	3/31/2009	\$15,052.14
two years ago	3/31/2008	\$6,855.48

SECRETARY

Comm. Frank reports:

DEP Permits, previously reviewed here, have been issued to Michael Gray, 30 Shorehaven Rd, Mark Shakely, 4 Westview Lane Hillard Bloom Shellfish, 132 Water St.

A request to renew a permit (COP) for a mooring field at Norwalk Yacht Club has been filed and has encountered some problems. A group of shellfish bed lease/franchise owners affected by the mooring field have retained an attorney, Fred Lovejoy, who has raised the issue of the law prohibiting moorings on their grounds without their permission, which had not been sought or granted or made part of the application.. Mooring field has been there for years, based on old verbal agreements. New permit will require new permissions. Mooring field has grown and been expanded by buffer zone, required by Aquaculture Bureau, several years ago. Harbormaster reports no moorings are being set until issues are resolved. DEP, Susan Jacobson has suggested one year permit to allow time for issues to be worked out, but there is no new permit at this time, and existing permit expires in May. Chair has expressed opinion that size of buffer zone might be negotiated by the club, with Aquaculture Bureau, in light of current no-discharge rule, and club's ability to make, no possibility for discharge, a requirement for mooring use.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports: 11.73 inches of rain in March vs. 2.06 last year and average since 1987 of 4.09 inches. There were 204 calls in March.

There was a closure in the CAA area for over 3 inch of rain on March 13th another on 22nd, and another on 29th, effectively closing the harbor from the 13th up to today.

There were 9 bypass/overflow reports, all on the 30th, when a 2.44 inch rain on the 29th was followed by another 2.34 inch on the 30th. Locations reported were: 59 Beacon St, 44 Bouton St, Westport Ave pump station, 4 Gwendolyn St, 56 Beacon St, Ann Street Siphon, 6 & 26 Saddle rd, Keeler Brook pump station, and 50 William St.

Amounts reported are, at best, estimates, and not listed here, but total in the thousands of gallons.

WASTEWATER

Comm. Bates absent: No report.

Brief discussion on how many minutes a commissioner can miss without a valid reason and remain on the commission followed, with no resolution.

WATER QUALITY

Harbormaster reports there was no meeting. Chair has been advised Mike Harden has resigned from that committee, citing not enough free time.

PERMITS

Mr. Casagrande reports: Very limited activity, because of all the rain. Questions the effect of such high temperatures so early in the season. There was a brief discussion of possible effects on dissolved oxygen levels if bottom water temps get too high.

POLICE

Sgt LaPak reports: 18 hrs patrol, no arrests. Flag pole at Calf Pasture has new line, installed by Comm. Johnson, needs new flag clips. Discussion followed and new clips will be obtained. Off Taranto then made brief presentation of condition of electronics on Shellfish Patrol boat. Radar, GPS, Depth sounder, and chart plotter, are all inoperable most of the time. Some of that equipment is very old and was moved from older boats. Off Taranto has learned of a 2008 model combination Raymarine unit that combines all the features of the inoperable obsolete equipment that is in stock at Norwest and is brand new, still in the original packaging. Norwest ordered it for somebody who never took delivery. It sold for just under \$5000, and has been offered to the Commission for \$2800. Off. Taranto will install it for us, at no cost. Brief discussion followed. Comm. Johnson moved we purchase the new electronics package, Comm. Casagrande seconded, and Vote was unanimous. Off Taranto was asked to get the unit installed as soon as possible. Comm. Johnson will arrange the voucher paperwork.

ADVISORY

Capt. Hopp reports water temperature is 52 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Harbormaster Griffin reports: Permit request by Hillard Bloom shellfish Co is not consistent with harbor management plan, but predates current language in plan about distance from federal channel, and was not opposed by Harbor Management. There was a brief discussion about Norwalk Yacht Club mooring field problem, reported above.

OLD BUSINESS

CL & P remediation plan...work in progress. Proposed trial remediation plan has been approved by DEP
WPCA March spill....No further response from DEP, chair will check
Gardella Barge aground....Has been turned over to Kevin Zawoy (DEP) for enforcement
Transplant, no report

NEW BUSINESS

Comm. Frank asks for an election of officers, as he has been handling both the chair and the secretary position for too long. After brief discussion, Chair nominated Comm. Johnson for chairman, 2nd by Comm. Casagrande. Unanimous vote. Comm. Johnson nominated Comm. Casagrande for vice chairman, 2nd by Comm. Frank. Unanimous vote. Comm. Casagrande nominated Comm. Frank for Secretary, 2nd by Comm. Johnson. Unanimous vote. Treasurer position will remain open. Comm. Johnson will be acting treasurer until a new treasurer is elected.

NEXT MEETING : MONDAY May 17th, Mr. Closter will notify City Clerk's office

ADJOURNMENT : Moved by Comm. Johnson, 2nd by Comm. Casagrande, unanimous **8:35 PM**