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**City of Norwalk**  
**Shellfish Commission Meeting**  
**Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER 7:15 PM****ATTENDANCE**

Commission: Jack Casagrande, Doug Bates, Pete Johnson, John Frank  
 Dr. Serena unable to attend, recuperating from injury suffered in fall at home.  
 Staff: Tom Closter  
 Police: absent  
 Advisory, Harbormaster Mike Griffin  
 Guest: Tim Pramer, Doug Stabell

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

October minutes approved by Comm. Casagrande, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Johnson

**TREASURER**

Comm. Johnson reports

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>		9/30/2009	\$ 18,523.47	
<b>DEPOSIT</b>	interest	October	\$ 22.00	
	Pramer Oyster Co	10/19/2009	\$ 30.00	permit
	Pramer Oyster Co	10/19/2009	\$ 9.00	product
	Fisherman's World	10/19/2009	\$ 1,527.00	
<b>EXPENSE</b>	AT&T (phone Co)		\$ (76.29)	
	John Frank	Reimburse	\$ (83.14)	Expense meeting in Htfd
	Peter Johnson	Reimburse	\$ (680.00)	Membership ISSC
<b>BALANCE</b>		10/31/2009	\$ 19,272.04	
<b>BALANCE</b>	a year ago	10/31/2008	\$ 16,069.72	
<b>BALANCE</b>	two years ago	10/31/2007	\$ 24,091.12	

**SECRETARY**

Dec 3 & 4 Stamford campus UCONN Workshop on BIOEXTRACTIVE technology for nutrient remediation. (use of shellfish to lower excess nutrient levels in the water to reduce hypoxia) pilot programs will be discussed. Speakers will be an impressive collection of scientists.

Jan 9 Annual gathering of shellfish commissions New Haven Sound School

Feb 8 & 10 Milford aquaculture seminar workshop will be held at the Marriott in Shelton

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23 Platt St/Oysterbend...we now have Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> response from DEP and EPA on report of water testing results at this site. More work, we have been requested, will be required.

So Norwalk Boat club permit has been issued for maintenance dredging. Two water quality reports, based on sampling done by harbor watch/river watch and summer interns funded by the water quality committee, with help from SF Comm. and Health Dept. under the supervision of Dick Harris and Peter Fraboni have been completed Chair has one copy of each, one for Five Mile river and one for Norwalk Harbor/river.

Good news is, between Dick Harris and Tom Closter and Mike Yoesik from the DPW, progress is finally being made to fix a PERENNIAL hot spot at Moody's lane where a system of storm drains reaching all the way to Stew Leonards, and possibly further, drains into the river. Construction is either now under way, or will start very soon.

Shellfish Patrol boat is no longer marked "Shellfish Patrol", nor docked at the police marine base. It seems the marine division has more boats than operators or slips, and it is now at the City visitor's dock at Vet's park. A situation that will not likely change soon. It may be time to consider retiring that boat or making it available for some other uses, while it is still marketable. The Harbormaster's boat is almost as old as he is. (1970s)

Both the Woodward Dock permit application and the Dawson Groin replacement with beach nourishment are works in progress.

We have proposed a shared use arrangement for Woodward, where he gets what he wants for the summer, and we retain access to the oysters there in the off season. We have not opposed a groin repair at Dawson's, #6 Shorehaven Rd, but we have strong objections to a DEP imposed requirement for "beach nourishment" which will dump 165 cu. yds. of upland sand below the high water line, on a shellfish bed. The only stated qualification for the sand is similar grain size. DEP agent requiring beach nourishment is same person who told our dredging committee that, under no circumstance would it be permissible to use upland sand or gravel as dredge spoils capping material. Suggestion was made to reach out to Army Corps and National Marine Fisheries on beach nourishment issue. The name of Timothy C Visel, coordinator of the Sound School in New Haven, was mentioned as a possible resource in evaluating this proposal. Chair will follow up.

### COMMITTEES

#### HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports: 7.28 inches of rain in October vs. 2.47 last year and average since 1987 of 4.25 inches. There were 635 calls in September.

There was a closure for 12 days on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> for 1.98 inches of rain and two sewage spills in the CAA area for over 1/2 inch of rain on September 11<sup>th</sup> and another for 9 days on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> for 1.87 inches of rain with no spills reported. Kristen Frank at aquaculture says she notifies the hatcheries directly and will not add Comm. Frank to the list of

people she calls.

**WASTEWATER**

Odor problem persists. Comm. Bates did not get to the WPCA meeting, but plans to attend the next. A message of introduction has been sent to the chairman of that commission, Darren Oustafine, on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

After last month's meeting, a message was sent to Dave Carey to see if there was any way we could help at local level with water testing, to help avoid long closures. The response was rather formal and made it clear he was not interested in any help and felt threatened by the offer. Immediate call to his office found him away, but revealed he has never certified lab at Norm Bloom's, nor our Health Dept. lab, although both are certified by State Health Dept. There was considerable discussion as to how best to get him to see the commission and his office as allies with the same goals.

**WATER QUALITY**

Mike Griffin reports Harbor management commission has voted to seek intervenor status in the 23 Platt St/Oysterbend permit/public hearing process.

**PERMITS**

Mr. Casagrande reports: Signs have not been posted. Permit sales for this will year will be closed out before next meeting. Charts will be printed for us by Silvermine press, who have met lowest bid. Text on back of charts will be updated. Signs have not yet been posted, as shown on new charts. Chair will check with Kristen at Aquaculture and with Sgt LaPak.

**POLICE**

Absent: Sgt LaPak away, no report.

**ADVISORY**

Capt. Pramer reports water temperature is 54 degrees.

**HARBOR MANAGEMENT**

Harbormaster Griffin reports HMC will be intervenor in 23 Platt St. Skip Gardella is talking about forming waterfront homeowner's association to protect the rights of waterfront homeowners to wharf out. He spoke at the annual state of the Harbor meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

CL & P remediation plan...work in progress. Chair arranged to take NU scientist, Susan Provost, and CL&P representative Chris Swan, out on Oyster boat with Capt Norm Bloom to see what the Oysters look like near the cable corridor, from that perspective. 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, this month...Nothing to report  
Comm. Johnson had opportunity to attend ISSC conference as guest of Norm Bloom & Son and gave brief presentation on conference. FDA is very concerned about handling of oysters and temperatures as some marine vibrio bacteria have been a problem in warmer waters and are considering closing the entire Gulf coast fishery for six months each year. Vibrio is harmful to shellfish, and can be harmful to people consuming shellfish. Most human illness has been related to swimming in vibrio infested water, not consuming shellfish, but closure threatens industry in the Gulf. Regulations concerning refrigeration

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in handling shellfish will be imposed, and may require refrigeration on larger boats. Nominations were presented by Mike Griffin, acting as nomination committee, and include Chair, Comm. Frank, Vice Chair Comm. Casagrande, Treasurer, Comm. Johnson. Comm. Johnson nominated Comm. Bates as Secretary. That position is vacant and Chair has been acting secretary for some time. Comm. Bates declined the nomination. On motion by Comm. Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Bates, Officers were elected unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

Comm. Johnson and Harbormaster Mike Griffin have been working on arrangements for Christmas party at Ischoda. Date has been set for Dec.16<sup>th</sup>. This year it will be a joint party with Harbor Management Commission.

Capt. Pramer reports large quantity of Oysters in Betts Bay, making it difficult for recreational harvest of underlying clams, suggests oysters should be removed. There is considerable discussion about any commercial harvest in recreational area, and the ownership of the oysters which, to some extent, may have been washed into that part of Betts Bay from adjacent lease bed owned by Doug Stabell. Capt Pramer was asked to work out some equitable arrangement with the other commercial harvesters that would be fair to all, especially Capt. Stabell, and get back to the commission at the next meeting.

Chair has gotten complaints from recreational harvesters about so many oysters making it hard to get clams and been advised by Capt Norm Bloom that there are large numbers of oysters, apparently the result of natural recruitment, that probably should be removed during the winter.

Capt. Pramer also requests 2010 Oyster permit for his small boat. Chair will print one.

### NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY Dec. 3rd, Mr. Closter will notify City Clerk's office of date change.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Comm. Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comm. Bates.

9:55 PM

Minutes by Comm. Frank

DRAFT