

PAGE 1 OF 4

City of Norwalk
Shellfish Commission Meeting
Oct 8th, 2009

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

Commission: Jack Casagrande, Doug Bates, John Frank
 Staff: Tom Closter
 Police: Sgt. Peter LaPak...out sick
 Advisory, Harbormaster Mike Griffin
 Guest: Tim Pramer

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

September minutes approved with corrections by Comm. Casagrande, 2nd by Comm. Bates. Add name Tony D'Andrea to attendance and change time of adjournment to 9:31

TREASURER

Comm. Johnson absent (family illness) Report from comptroller follows

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		8/31/2009	\$19,009.46	
DEPOSIT	interest	September.	\$20.00	
	Pramer Oyster Co	9/15/2009	\$30.00	permit
EXPENSE	AT&T (phone Co)		(\$75.16)	
	Police OT	09/21/09	(\$220.83)	
	CHMA Dinner meeting		(\$240.00)	
BALANCE		9/30/2009	\$18,523.47	
BALANCE	a year ago	9/30/2008	\$14,927.49	
BALANCE	two years ago	9/30/2007	\$22,646.79	

SECRETARY

Comm. Frank reports: Tim Pramer has asked for another clam permit and submitted a \$30 check. Reports transplant was done of 75 bushel to Calf pasture. For the entire season, he has taken only 454 bushel in 11 days worked. Permit issued, check turned over for treasurer. Check for \$9 for product also turned in at this meeting.

Application by David Woodward, discussed last month, was found inconsistent with harbor management plan, as proposed. Our petition for public hearing was denied within one week because Dave Carey found no impact on shellfish. We talked with Mr. Carey and suspect he was led to believe we approved the redesign. We talked with Ms Jacobson at DEP and marveled at how quickly we were denied, as she had predicted, and she insists she had no input into that decision. We have been told that applicant has been advised further revision will be required and Roberge Assoc. Coastal Engineers is now doing the engineering. We talked with John Roberge and believe he understands our problem with construction on this site and will try to come up with design that works for applicant and for us.

PAGE 2 OF 4

Application of Richard Scalise at Seabreeze Place calls for pier over seagrass, terminating at edge of grass with a boat elevator/lift. Mud flat there is natural bed with productive history for clams, for relay. This design encroaches on natural bed as little as possible, little more than the size of the boat, and we had no objection. Mr. Carey has found significant impact and permit process is presently stalled.

Application for Hinnant at 57 Rowayton Ave was briefly discussed, involves no work on the bottom, only separation of existing concrete deck from slab under house and some work on house foundation, property borders channel, No impact on shellfish resources. Chair travelled to DEP in Hartford for status conference on 23 Platt St./Oysterbend on 10/1/09. Little was accomplished, except date set for next status conference. Results of testing done on upland site in June and July, and forwarded to DEP in August, were made available and confirm the opinion that leaching into the river is a problem that must be addressed. Testing we requested, on shellfish meats taken from as close as possible to upland site, has not been done.

Motion to reimburse expenses for trip, not to exceed \$150, made by Comm. Bates, 2nd by Comm. Casagrande. Chair will print up request for treasurer.

Chair suggests commission should conduct election of officers. Harbormaster Griffin will act as nominating committee, report next Month and we will elect in December.

Chair has spoken again to legal dept. and been advised proceeds of any suit will go to city general fund. Chair has not sent complete report to legal dept, for mayoral review, pending clarification. Does suit for damage to shellfish bed, make sense, if damage award does not come to commission for restoration of damaged area ?

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports: 2.67 inches of rain in September vs. 1.40 last year and average since 1987 of 4.95 inches. There were 469 calls in September.

There was a closure in the CAA area for over 1/2 inch of rain on September 11th and another on September 27th, all due to rainfall with no re-opening yet.

There were no by-passes reported in September, but two major raw sewage spills last week, Chair was not notified, as had been arranged, so did not notify Sgt's Cove Hatchery. Mr. Closter will find out what happened.

WASTEWATER

Odor problem persists. (Sept WPCA minutes show complaint on Sept 21 and it was determined an exhaust fan that should not be running had been left on in the dewatering building. It was turned off and the switch locked) There was heavy rain on Saturday, Oct. 3rd that closed the harbor and resulted in two major spills, one from the Ann St siphon for two hours, undetermined amount of raw sewage went into the harbor and a 500 gallon (estimated) spill from a secondary scum well at the WPCA plant, for 70 minutes. Therefore, there will be no reopening until after shellfish meat testing. Samples will not be collected until 10/13/09 with earliest possible results not until 10/15/09 so earliest possible opening will be end of day on 15th, effectively on 16th. Delay collecting samples and testing is because aquaculture apparently will not authorize any overtime. Extra days closure is financial hardship for small commercial operators who work entirely inside the harbor and it has been suggested that the cost for the OT for the sampling/ testing should be the responsibility of OMI when a sewer spill is the reason for the meat testing requirement. There was considerable discussion and it was decided that Chair should communicate with Dave Carey and see if some better arrangement can be

PAGE 3 OF 4

worked out, possibly involving some local assistance in the process of collection and/or testing. We have certified laboratories in Norwalk and in Westport, for testing water samples, and perhaps we can get them certified for meat sample testing. Major spills of raw sewage from a well run sewer system do not make sense. These spills and the persistent odor problem are indicators of a not so well run system. Comm. Bates will represent the commission with the Water pollution control authority. Chair will send introduction.

WATER QUALITY

Tom Closter reports; Dick Harris found several hot spots at storm drains in the Lockwood Lane, Buckingham Place neighborhood, some in backyards, and information was passed along to OMI. Report on latest round of water tests at 23 Platt St has been released and Chair has digital copies of 141 page report. No testing has been done that we requested of shellfish meats and we may need to get intervenor status and consider doing our own tests.

PERMITS

Mr. Casagrande reports: Signs have not been posted. Flags at Beach do not show closure, nor does Norwalk Hour. Mr. Closter will check. Check from Fisherman's World for \$1,527.00 turned over to Chair for treasurer for 49 non-resident, 23 resident, 24 seniors

POLICE

Sgt LaPak reports to chair, by email, he is home sick, no report

ADVISORY

Capt. Pramer reports water temperature is 67 degrees.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Harbormaster Griffin reports new charts for recreational clambers have been printed in small quantities, 200. He was able to get 100 printed in house at City Hall, but had to go to Kinko for 2nd 100 and pay \$68. Invoice was turned over Comm. Johnson for reimbursement. Comm. Casagrande will contact printer who does permits and tide charts, Silvermine Press. It was noted that text on back of charts refers only to status flags and should be amended to include status signs. Harbormaster has quote from Sir Speedy in Fairfield for \$750 for 3000 charts and Mr. Casagrande has quote from Silvermine press for \$790. Mr. Casagrande will go back to Silvermine press and ask them to match Sir speedy quote.

Harbormaster Griffin suggests we should get protocols and costs for testing shellfish meats for PCBs and other contaminants found upland at 23 Platt St.

OLD BUSINESS

CL & P remediation plan...work in progress

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...Tim Pramer transplanted 75 bushel from Ram Island Bay to Calf Pasture. Norm Bloom had planned to transplant for the commission, but we have no confirmation.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY Nov 12th, Mr. Closter will notify City Clerk's office of date change.

ADJOURNMENT

8:42 PM

DRAFT