

City of Norwalk
Shellfish Commission Meeting
NOVEMBER 6th, 2008

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CALL TO ORDER 7:15 PM

ATTENDANCE

Commission: Jack Casagrande, Pete Johnson, John Frank, Dr Serena ill.
 Staff: Tom Closter
 Police: Sgt Peter LaPak
 Advisory: Mark Errico, Harbormaster Mike Griffin
 Guests: None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Approved with no corrections by Comm. Johnson, 2nd by Comm. Casagrande

TREASURER

Comm. Johnson reports:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
BALANCE		9/30/2008	\$16,069.72	
DEPOSIT	interest	Sept	\$38.00	
	interest	Oct.	\$40.00	
	Fishermen's World	10/30/08	\$2,169.00	
EXPENSE	Phone Co.	9-12-2008	(\$138.44)	
	Norwest Marine		(\$207.63)	service
BALANCE		10-31-2008	\$17,970.65	
	last year	10-31-2007	\$9,028.58	
	two years ago	10-31-2006	\$24,368.51	

SECRETARY

Comm. Frank reports

Joe Tomas requests permit for pier ramp and dock at 11 Seabreeze Place, agent is John Hilts. Design is very similar to two previously approved at #5 and #7 Seabreeze Place, also represented by Mr. Hilts. There is no water at low tide and design includes bench structure that will support dock and boat off the bottom. After some discussion, Comm. Johnson moved we OK this project with a condition that it be relocated a short distance to get it entirely off a section of hard bottom that is producing Oysters. 2nd by Comm. Casagrande, carried unanimously. Chair will communicate with Mr. Hilts.

Ava Roosevelt requests COP for ramp and floating dock off existing concrete pier at 14 Nathan Hale Dr. COP to repair concrete pier was recently issued. Agent is John Roberge. Ramp and dock will extend 36.8 ft. beyond concrete pier and close to 80 ft from upland property. Chair feels project should not be eligible for 2 COPs, but decision is DEPs and seems to fly in the face of their own rules. Ramp and float will extend about 25 ft over lease bed #201, owned by

Norman Bloom. Mr. Bloom has indicated, to Sue Jacobson at DEP/OLISP, he could live with this, as long as it did not encroach any further than previous structure at the site. It looks like it will encroach about the same distance and removal of some derelict pilings from prior structure is expected. Chair feels applicant's requirements could be met without encroaching on the bed and points out next door neighbor, Mr. O'Connor, using same agent, recently made considerable changes in the design of his dock to keep it off the same bed. Prior structure was built without a permit and was the subject of a lawsuit by prior owner of the bed, Mr. Lovejoy. Lawsuit was decided in favor of a Mr. Roosevelt. Permits had been issued after-the-fact, by Army Corps and State agency that preceded DEP, putting the judge in very difficult position as ruling against Roosevelt would require ruling against the agencies as well. After some discussion it was agreed that Commission would not endorse this design, as is, but would not make a big issue without support from Mr. Bloom.

Chair has obtained results of recent groundwater testing for PCBs at 23 Platt St (Oysterbend) There are high counts at test wells closest to water's edge. Our request for testing of shellfish meats found close to shore, near those wells, has not gotten any response, yet.

COMMITTEES

HEALTH DEPT

Mr. Closter reports: 2.47 inches of rain in October vs. 6.11 last year and average since 1987 of 6.22 inches. Total rain for 2008 is 39.41 inches vs. yearly average since 1987 of 51.45. There were 458 calls in October vs. 393 in October, 2007.

There was a complete closure in the three towns on 10/26/08 through the end of the month. Based on rain event.

There were two spills I reported.

10/9/2008	9 Nursery st.	50 gals	Contained on site	1 hr
10/31/2008	10 Hamilton Ave	500 gals	Root blocked sewer	1:hr 45 min

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Comm. Johnson reports ODOR is very strong early every morning. He is getting complaints from commuters from East Norwalk train station at 7:30

Brief discussion led to the conclusion that will to control the odor is the major problem.

Chair will communicate with Mr. Alvord and the Mayor, and DEP.

WATER QUALITY

Chair is working closely with Mr. D'Andrea on full story of major spill last month. City law dept does not believe City has a worthwhile damage claim. Chair and Mr. D'Andrea will follow-up with info being delivered to proper agencies for some action. While there is no indication of malicious intent, a spill that size requires some penalty. NU has been very helpful, they have determined spill started on the 11th, not the 5th, and request a change in the report. Total estimate of spill will be reduced to 400,000 gallons in 20 days. Dick Harris has been ill with Pericarditis and will be laid up for a while.

PERMITS

Comm. Casagrande reports he will be closing out outlets by the end of the month. New permits will be printed. Color of permits will stay the same. He moves rates for resident adults change to \$12 and non-resident adults change to \$27 (\$2 increases), 2nd by Comm.

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Johnson, passed unanimously. We will need to print new charts, old ones have not run out yet, so we have time. Old ones were distributed for review with any changes ready for next meeting.

POLICE

Sgt LaPak reports for October, 12hrs patrol no arrests. Very little apparent activity.

ADVISORY

Mark Errico reports water temp is 51 ° F. State aquaculture now has computerized phone setup that reports closings. It can be reached through their main phone number .203- 874-0696, and gives information for the entire State.

HARBOR MANAGEMENT

Mike Griffin reports State of Harbor meeting is scheduled for Nov. 12th (Wednesday) at City Hall. SF Commission money for interns was never transmitted this year, although it was approved at \$2500. He requested that commission consider raising the amount to \$3000, and get the transfer completed. Motion by Comm. Johnson, 2nd by Comm. Casagrande., passed unanimously. Mr. Closter will handle details with comptroller. 15 private dredging projects will be allowed to dump under Norwalk's cap. DEP will be running workshops at Norwalk & Old Lyme in the near future for implementing the new OLISP permitting process

OLD BUSINESS

Darien has responded, wants more formal statement on Letterhead and backup of phone bills, Comm. Johnson will make copies of bills for 12 months. Chair will send statement.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of phone bills led to Comm. Johnson agreeing to find out about updating phone service plan to eliminate long distance charges

NEXT MEETING

TBA... Comm. Johnson is making arrangements for dinner meeting, date has not yet been confirmed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

At 9:08PM by Comm. Casagrande, 2nd by Comm.. Johnson

Minutes by Comm. Frank