

**SHELLFISH COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**City of Norwalk**  
**Shellfish Commission Meeting**  
**SEPT. 11<sup>th</sup> , 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM**

**ATTENDANCE**

Commission: Jack Casagrande, Pete Johnson, Dr. Frank Serena, John Frank

Staff: Tom Closter

Police: Sgt Peter LaPak

Advisory: Mark Errico

Guests: Jim Bloom

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Under next meeting : Change Sept 8 to Sept 11

Approved with corrections by Comm.. Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Serena

**TREASURER**

Comm. Johnson reports:

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>REASON</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>		7/31/2008	<b>\$12,684.14</b>	
<b>DEPOSIT</b>	interest	July	<b>\$26.00</b>	
	Fisherman's World	8-08-2008	<b>\$2287.00</b>	permits

**EXPENSE**

AT&T (\$69.65) phone

**BALANCE**

	8-31-2008	<b>\$14927.49</b>
last year	8-31-2007	<b>\$22846.79</b>
two years ago	8-31-2006	<b>\$23139.32</b>

**Checks from Wspt SF Comm. for phone expense for past year and from Seaport for used outboard motor, not shown in this monthly report. Treasurer has receipts, should show next month...total \$1260**

**SECRETARY**

National Marine Fisheries Laboratory in Milford is holding open house Saturday, Oct. 18

Harbor Management had special meeting on Oysterbend/23 Platt St and sent letter to DEP expressing concerns about chemicals leaching into the river from that site.

Norm Bloom & Son is doing transplant to the Beach for the commission and has already moved 230 bushel of clams. Everything is closed because of recent heavy rains, Transplanted area will need to be closed additional two weeks after conditional area re-opens.

Robert Nowinski at Calf Pasture Island was granted permit he requested for 35' X 4.5' floating dock, anchored by three pilings, in the section that was dredged several years ago without permits. Dock has been used by Nowinski for years without permits.

Second Transformer will be delivered by Weeks Marine, using enormous heavy lift (1,000,000 lbs) barge-mounted crane on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, Rig is something to see in small harbor. Same Company, Weeks Marine, recently recovered barge load of scrap metal from Barge Cape Race, sunk south of Sheffield Island in 1984 and may try to recover barge itself and/ or tug Celtic while heavy lift crane is here. Barge is estimated to weigh 700,000lbs. Scrap metal recovery was first believed to require DEP permit and DEP sent agent to serve cease and desist notice, which was delivered with assistance of Mike Griffin, Harbormaster, and ignored. DEP spokesman later said there was no violation as material was taken from barge, not from bottom..

DEP/OLISP is changing the permitting process to require local review by Harbor Management and Shellfish Commissions before review by their office. Workshop to explain new procedure will be held in Norwalk on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, Chair plans to attend.

Northeast Utility cables to Northport are now being buried on New York side of sound, starting Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. Chair has been in touch with them about restoration plans for Norwalk Harbor . They have indicated they plan to attend a commission meeting with a proposal. Chair will keep in touch. Contact has been Raul DeBrigard.

Chair met with counsel for Oysterbend, Jean Perry Phillips, at her request. We talked primarily about history of the site. She is interested in finding local people who may have worked there, in any capacity.

Local resident, Diane Lauricella, a member of the water quality committee, and an outspoken activist on environmental issues, is being criticized publicly after speaking at a zoning meeting about the former Guard All Chemical site, which is now proposed for another use. She supports the new use, an indoor sports complex, but said the remediation plan was insufficient. Her credentials were questioned at that meeting and in the Norwalk Hour. It seems there may be a coordinated effort to discredit her as capable of an informed opinion. She is dealing with the criticism and working on appropriate response.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **HEALTH DEPT**

Mr. Closter reports: 2.58 inches of rain in August vs.3.21 last year and average since 1987 of 5.19 inches. Total rain for 2008 is 27.85 inches vs. yearly average since 1987 of

51.45. There were 914 calls in August vs. 1057 in August, 2007.

There was a partial closure in the CAA area from 8/02/08 through 8/17/08 . Based on rain event of 1.18. Re-opened after test results by aquaculture.

There was one spill reported.

8/18/2008	12 Sunset Hill	UNK	broken lateral	UNK
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Broken lateral was determined to have been connected to storm drain to Moody's Lane, will be corrected, other homes in same area being die tested.

Pump station at Old Trolley Way failed in recent heavy rains. Spilled 5000 Gals. estimated, raw sewage to Wilson Cove

## 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. OMI and Mr. Alvord have convinced the WPCA that complaints are rare or non-existent. There is a transfer of sludge trailers early every morning and that probably causes the odor release. With only a single operator through the night, it is very likely the chemical odor control is not being added unless that part of the operation is fully automatic. John Atkin, chair of WPCA, attended a recent water quality meeting and invited any of us to visit and see that operation for ourselves. It may be time to make a visit. If the plant operating company cannot control odor emissions, what else are they cutting corners on ?

## WATER QUALITY

Chair attended monthly meeting where John Atkin reported that Lisa Barden told him that the sodium permanganate is only used on the sludge in the dewatering building and should not be getting into the liquid effluent from the plant. He did not know how it was added to the sludge, as a sprayed liquid or a dry powder.

Mysound probe needs to be replaced and will cost \$6000, it is expected the maritime aquarium will fund replacement.

Intern report is done and will be distributed.

Dick Harris has reported that bottom trawls in the river, all the way out to SNBC , have come up empty, except for a single seahorse. Chair commented he understood seahorses were unusual this far North. One was found in Stamford recently and the media made it sound like a very unusual sighting. Jimmy Bloom commented that they find Seahorses regularly in the Sound.

Recent fires at Lajoies are a concern as to runoff of water used on fires. Yard is very close to Village Creek and runoff from a junkyard probably carries a lot of pollution

23 Platt St , Oysterbend, remediation plan is getting more testing done and we are waiting for results.

Dr. Serena questions testing for discarded medicine in sewer plant effluent. Where testing has been done, around the country, remarkable levels of some medicines have been found with a potential to effect marine growth, especially filter feeders, like shellfish. As far as we know nobody is routinely doing that testing in CT.

## **PERMITS**

Mr. Casagrande reports he will be arranging for printing of new charts, with some changes, and will report next month.

## **POLICE**

Sgt LaPak reports for August 21hrs patrol, 4 verbal warning, no arrests. SF boat will be taken out of water for service and equipment upgrades that should not cost the SF commission anything. They will be using a RB inflatable that is being loaned to them. They also will need new closure signs and will check with aquaculture.

## **ADVISORY**

Mark Errico reports water temp is 68° F.

## **HARBOR MANAGEMENT**

Mike Griffin out-of-town, no report. Chair reports dredging RFP is out and bids will be opened Sept 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Closter will notify City Hall.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

At 8:00PM by Dr. Serena, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Johnson

Minutes by Comm. Frank

