

**SHELLFISH COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**City of Norwalk  
Shellfish Commission Meeting  
August 7th , 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: Harbormaster Mike Griffin

Guests: Thomas A. Brigante, President of Orion Earth Services, Easton, Ct.

Tony D'Andrea, chair of Water quality Committee

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Under attendance: add Tony D'Andrea

Under Permits: Change check #1 to \$3446.

Approved with corrections by Dr. Serena, 2nd by Comm. Casagrande

**TREASURER**

Comm. Johnson reports:

	NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	REASON
<b>BALANCE</b>		6/31/2008	<b>\$7,986.26</b>	
<b>DEPOSIT</b>	interest	June	<b>\$45.00</b>	
	Fisherman's World	7-16-2008	<b>\$3,446.00</b>	permits
	Fisherman's World	7-16-2008	<b>\$1,498.00</b>	permits
	Stabell & Sons	7-16-2008	<b>\$30.00</b>	permits
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
	AT&T		<b>(\$70.99)</b>	phone
	Norwest Marine		<b>(\$65.62)</b>	oil & filter
	Port Supply		<b>(\$184.51)</b>	Flags
<b>BALANCE</b>		7-31-2008	<b>\$12,684.14</b>	
	last year	7-31-2007	<b>\$23,478.43</b>	
	two years ago	7-31-2006	<b>\$20,398.77</b>	

**SECRETARY**

Westport Phone bill & permit rates  
Last billed for share of phone bill

WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION Oct 7, 2003

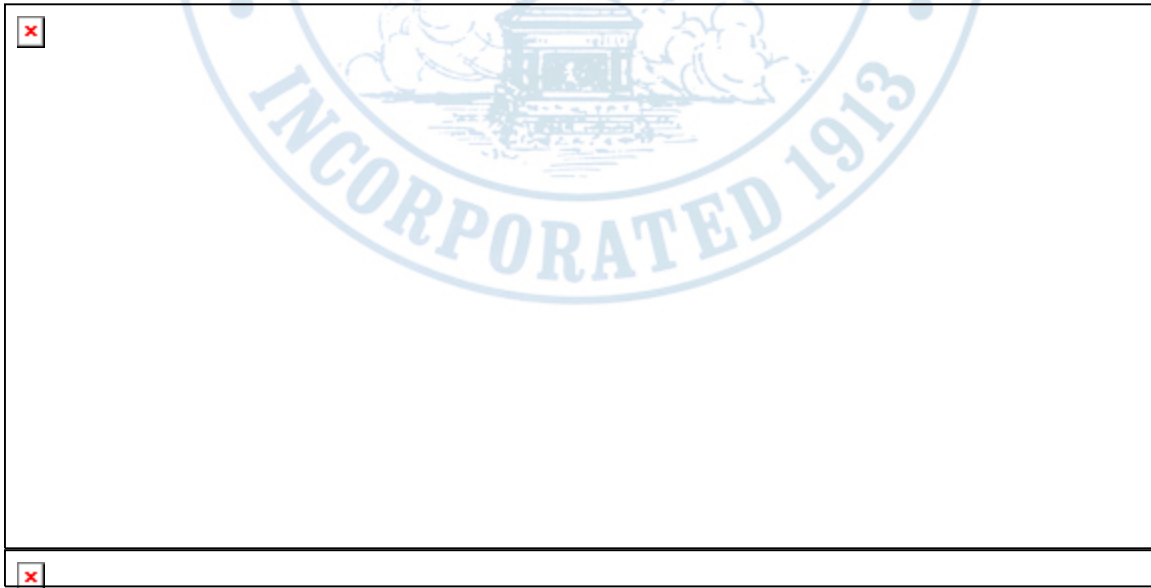
C/O Conservation Dept

Subject: Shared expenses for telephone service calendar years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, & 2003 at \$399.48.per year are \$1997.40 (half of 60 months service @ 66.58.monthly average) for telephone lines used to advise shellfishermen if conditional beds are open or closed on a particular day. Please make check to NORWALK SHELLFISH COMMISSION and mail to

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Robert Searles at 10 Rolling Lane, Norwalk CT 06851  
How old is answering machine and tape ?

Bill was paid, according to their records, they went through period of relative inactivity and have just gotten active recently. Don't know why we asked for half as Darien is also part of this MOU. Consider asking for 1/3 of this years bill, only. Also, need to bill Darien. They have never, to my knowledge, contributed anything. Moved to bill both Darien & Westport for 1/3 of past year's phone bill. Comm. Serena. 2nd by Comm. Johnson



23 Platt St / Oysterbend / work in progress Harbor Commission held special meeting last night. Comment period still open, data still being gathered.. Public hearing has not been scheduled yet.

Harbor commission voted to send a comment letter making it clear they support the

project, but have concerns about the remediation plans and reserve judgment until the results of further testing can be evaluated. We have requested testing of shellfish meats taken from close to shore in the marina for contaminants, including but not limited to, PCBs identified at upland site.

Mr. Brigante spoke about the science in the proposed remediation plan, at length. He has studied it and had it reviewed by LEPs who work for him and finds it does not adequately address the risk to the harbor and to the shellfish resources. He has a relationship with the shellfish industry and extensive experience in cleanup and remediation. He has offered technical assistance to the commission and to the shellfish companies. He strongly urged the Commission to pursue

City Garbage contract/Meadow St regional transfer station/City Carting Co/Stamford Spoke at several meetings about commission concerns as part of that property is used to store and washout dumpsters on unpaved lot adjacent to village creek. Deal with City Carting had been badly presented and included City leasing Meadow St Transfer station to city with city getting permit for 1200 tons a day. Present permit is for 500 a day, ½ garbage ½ C&D. City Carting has the contract, will haul from Crescent St. transfer station(City owned)

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Rename aquaculture boat John H. Volk

The Westport Shellfish Commission is sending a letter of support to Representative Richard Roy requesting his support to rename the Bureau of Aquaculture vessel to the "John H. Volk." A letter of justification is also being sent to the Legislature and the Long Island Sound Advisory Council is sending a letter of support.

The offer is extended to other shellfish commissions as an opportunity to join the cause.

Attached is a copy of the original petition sent to Commissioner Perelli.



**REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION**

**PETITIONED TO: F. Philip Perelli, Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Agriculture**

**FROM: The supporters of John H. Volk, Retired Bureau of  
Aquaculture Director**

**REQUESTING: Bureau of Aquaculture vessel renaming.**

**In memoriam,** We the supporters and benefactors of more than twenty-two years of selfless and dedicated service by former Bureau of Aquaculture Director, John H. Volk, formally request the renaming of the Bureau's vessel "Yankee Oyster" to "**John H. Volk.**"

The Connecticut Shellfish Industry along with numerous local, State, and Federal agencies received over two decades of tireless work by John, improving the environment and Long Island Sound. Former Director Volk had vision and commitment that he extended out through promotion, education and advancement of the shellfish resources of the State which in turn befitted not only the shellfish industry but the overall culture associated with this valuable resource. John voiced h

For the services provided to the State of Connecticut, the Shellfish Industry and Long Island Sound, we feel that a fitting token of appreciation to our Captain would be to name a vessel that is and has been utilized for the betterment of the shellfish resources of Long Island Sound. The current Bureau of Aquaculture vessel "Yankee Oyster" should be renamed and dedicated to John H. Volk. May his example be followed and his service never be forgotten.



Signed Address

Letters of support can be sent to:  
Representative Richard Roy

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43 Howe Street  
Milford, CT 06460

Not supported by Aquaculture.....Boat has limited useful life, bronze plaque at the bureau Hqs in Milford would be a more permanent memorial  
After brief discussion. Commission decided not to support this effort, but may support effort to place a permanent plaque at Aquaculture office building in Milford.

EMAIL to DEP 7-31-08

Application for new 69 ft. bulkhead at 77 Roton Ave (Farm Creek) for Lisa Schlackman Susan:

We have a copy of this application from Norwalk Marine Contractors. As you know, Farm Creek is part of a Norwalk natural shellfish bed we are obliged to protect.

1. We are puzzled how this qualifies for COP as it is clearly intended to move the high tide line a foot and a half into Farm Creek and transfer ownership of 66 sq ft of public trust property to applicant.
2. We are not convinced that applicant's contractor lacks the ability to replace the existing bulkhead without encroaching a foot and a half further into Farm Creek, even with a swimming pool in place, and urge that redesign to eliminate that encroachment by proposed bulkhead be explored. They are doing a 25 ft section entirely within applicant's property to avoid encroaching a property line. The 44 ft section will require upland excavation to tie t 3. We appreciate applicant's dock design will correct an existing problem with an oversize dock now routinely resting on the bottom in that the new dock will be smaller and will rest on a permanent bench structure designed to keep it off the bottom. Bench detail is sparse, but scale plans seem to show the bench will not have much effect on normal water circulation.

We are confident applicant's contractor will find a way to eliminate or significantly reduce further encroachment into Farm Creek, and we will be then be able to support this proposal.

John Frank, Chair  
Norwalk Shellfish Commission.

CL&P Cable replacement project... Cable work finished inside harbor

Two Messages sent asking about restoration plans. 7-10 & 7-31

Raul DeBrigard called, would like to meet with us, could not make tonight's meeting.

We agreed to keep in touch and, with proper notice, call special meeting, if necessary.

Commission's old outboard...Harbormaster finds his boat will not accept our motor, Seaport is buying it. We are waiting for their check before releasing it.

ODOR from WWTP. Exchanged emails with Mr. Alvord about odor being worse on weekends when plant has only one operator. He didn't agree that was a problem, but promised further training for that operator. Early morning odor everyday persists and is probably related to transfer of sludge trailers.

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Chemical, Sodium or potassium permanganate, being used to control odor, has other uses as a biocide, particularly for shellfish, and may be a problem. Water quality is working on testing for levels of chemical in effluent. There are other, non chemical, odor controls available. Mr. D'Andrea and Mr. Brigante both spoke to this issue, and to federal and state rules for operating sewer plants which are not being followed. Mr. Brigante sa

**COMMITTEES**

**HEALTH DEPT**

Mr. Closter reports: 2.43 inches of rain in July vs.3.27 last year and average since 1987 of 4.04 inches. Total rain for 2008 is 25.27 inches vs. yearly average since 1987 of 51.45. There were 1053 calls in July vs. 1320 in July, 2007.

There was a partial closure in the CAA area from 6/01/08 through 7/31/08. Based on test results by aquaculture.

There were two spills reported..

7-10-2008 172 Bouton St 20 hrs broken lateral 20 gals (?)

7-24-2008 Treatment Plant 20 min. Equipment failure 100 gals

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT**

Comm. Johnson reports ODOR is very strong early in the morning. 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.

**WATER QUALITY**

Tony D'Andrea reports on data collection and research on permanganate as a biocide and loss of millions of larval stage shellfish from hatchery at the time City began using permanganate. Cause and effect has not been proven, but is strongly suspected. Mr. Brigante indicates permanganate is not a chronic, persistent toxin and, if it is getting

released into harbor, toxic effect stops as soon as release is stopped. He suggests the plant o

### **PERMITS**

Mr. Casagrande reports he turned a check from Fishermen's world in to Treasurer at this meeting. \$2287 for 67 residents and 73 non residents.

We are out of maps and will need to get more done this winter.

Asked about transplant. Chair has talked to Norm Bloom who will do transplant after September. There is no problem finding clams at Betts or at the beach.

### **POLICE**

Sgt LaPak reports for July 22hrs patrol, a lot of clammers, excellent compliance.

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### **ADVISORY**

Tony D'Andrea reports water temp at Hope Dock is up to 76 o F.

### **HARBOR MANAGEMENT**

Harbormaster Mike Griffin has had calls from commercial shellfish companies about mooring off Sheffield Island, near Gazebo. Mooring has been there for two years, is used as a backup for owner of large boat with slip in Wilson Cove is used only when extreme low tide makes trip to dock inadvisable. Can be ordered removed, if necessary.

Commission concern is that proliferation of moorings in that area could result in Aquaculture calling it a mooring field and closing nearby lease beds. Mike says that will not happen. Also asks for review of mooring request for 8 Shorehaven rd and response. And review and comment for Long Island assembly . Chair will bring comment to next meeting for commission approval before submission.

Mr. Brigante discussed disposal of dredging spoils and expressed his belief that in-the – water disposal would soon be stopped. His company is shipping spoils, by rail, to PA, where there is a real need for fill for open pit coal mines and he believes this will be required for all projects in the near future. It is more expensive than open water dumping, but about half the cost of trucking.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, Sept. 8th

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

At 9:27PM by Dr. Serena, 2nd by Mr. Johnson

