

Mayor's Water Quality Committee Agenda  
For Sept. 3, 2020

- a. Call to order;
- b. **Roll call**; Steve Bartush, Jim Bartley, Tom Closter, John Crespo, Diane Lauricella, Dick Harris, Pete Johnson, Chris Malik, Harry Rilling, John Romano, Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer
- c. **Communications**;  
DEEP, -  
Eversource, -  
Dept. of Transportation via Shellfish Comm.  
Dept of Health  
Nancy Chapman – see below  
Rick Reardon – Oyster shell park and PCB's
- d. **Public comments**
- e. **Old business**;  
Letter to Mayor and other committees re: water use vs population vs development OR send a request from commissions for how and when low water is communicated to residents and how it is planned for.
- f. **New business**;  
1) Sewage in River SEE BELOW communication from Nancy Chapman  
2) Louise Washer on update on raising of Grupes dam on the Silvermine  
3) Dead menhaden in Norwalk River – water temp. and low DO  
4) Anything else?
- g. Reading and approval of minutes from July 2, 2020 – SEE BELOW.
- h. Next meeting tentatively Oct. 1, 2020.
- i. Adjournment.

From Nancy Chapman;

A Silvermine resident tells me the harbor was disgusting yesterday, " sewage all over, all the way out to the mouth of the harbor," even though there's been no rain.

Was there a spill from the wastewater plant? How many gallons spilled and why?

AND THEN AFTER A FEW EMAILS:

Good afternoon. Please refer to the following and attached in response to your below email.

CTDEEP's Bypass and CSO Events Public Viewer Website is functioning with no issues as of August 3, 2020. Please refer to the attached snapshot taken this morning. Municipal sanitary sewer bypasses can be viewed and downloaded from the two tabs (i.e. active bypass and all bypass) on the top left of the public viewer. This information is accurate and accessible to the public. CT DEEP is responsible for uploading of municipal data and maintenance of their website.

This morning, WPCA, DPW and SUEZ staff further evaluated the areas depicted on your submitted photos (located within the Oyster Shell Park, IMAX and Walkbridge areas). We have also spoken to the Shellfish industry, Shellfish Commission and Harbor Watch.

We are extremely pleased to report that these are small, isolated spots of an unknown sheen which contained bubbles, leaves, etc. These materials (and sheen appearance) are not characteristic of a sewage spill. This discharge may be attributed from the collection of inland organics entering the waterway, especially after prolonged dry periods, or another possible non-sewage substance.

As suspected, we have not observed/confirmed any active sewage leaks (which would not cease unless they were addressed). We have concluded our investigation and have nothing further to add.

I would like to sincerely thank DPW, WPCA, Shellfish Commission, shellfish industry and Harbor Watch for their continued collaboration and diligent efforts.

Thank you very much. Stay safe and dry.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Carr, PE, CFM

Lieutenant, US Coast Guard

**Chief of Operations and Public Works**

City of Norwalk  
Mayor's Water Quality Committee Meeting

July 2, 2020 Minutes

Members: Joe Schnierlein, Pete Johnson, Chris Malik, Steve Bartush, John Romano, Dick Harris, Diane Lauricella, Geoff Steadman, Jim Bartley, Louise Washer, John Crespo  
Staff: Thomas Closter

Guests: None

MEETING HELD BY ZOOM PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Motion to Approve by Pete Johnson, second by Dick Harris. Unanimous Vote.

DISCUSSION

1. 1) Chairman Schnierlein discussed a draft for a water use policy in Norwalk. He would like the Mayor's Water Quality Committee to encourage the Common Council to adopt policies that could advise citizens conservation before we are in a major drought. He also has concerns with Norwalk's population increase with new development projects and wants to create a sustainable future of Norwalk's water supply.
2. 2) Chairman Schnierlein said the online public meeting with the Connecticut Department of Transportation discussed the potential uses of Manresa Island as a staging area during the Walk Bridge Replacement Project. Discussion also centered on possible barge locations and vehicle traffic possibly affecting the neighborhood. John Romano stated that the Department of Transportation did not adhere to the comment period and their application has been submitted. Steve Bartush said the Harbor Commission and the Shellfish Commission sent in writing a list of questions for the meeting and there has been no response.
3. 3) Chairman Schnierlein said there has been no communication with Eversource and their plans for the transmission line relocation project. Committee members are still very concerned about the path and method. There also has been no recent communications with DEEP.
4. 4) Chairman Schnierlein and Geoff Steadman talked about turbidity measuring and restrictions and concerns when dredging takes place for the Walk Bridge Project. Geoff discussed Best Management Practices and measures taken to limit turbidity. The Department of Transportation has three monitoring stations to measure turbidity

data to establish background data. Consultant Tom Hart has analyzed the data and has preliminary observations to discuss with DOT. They will review the data and implications for the permit. Pete Johnson questioned whether the measuring devices were in place for a year to get monthly readings. Steve Bartush discussed the turbidity data and it is not clear whether or not the exceedances of the threshold will spur an investigation or stop the work and then spur an investigation. Chairman Schnierlein said the turbidity measuring at the Police dock was done incorrectly, the device should have been attached to the dock and not be stationary at the piling with no tidal change.

5. 5) Diane Lauricella said it may be beneficial to meet with the City Code Enforcement Committee to express concerns that developments are being planned properly.
6. 6) Tom Closter said the Director of Health has daily briefings with the Mayor's Office, Norwalk's Emergency Management Team, South Norwalk Electric & Water and the First District Water Department regarding recent water conditions. South Norwalk Electric & Water reports reservoir measurements as of June 29, 2020 at 84.3% and the following week the drought trigger is at 75.8%. The reservoirs didn't receive any appreciable precipitation from the recent rains. The Mayor mentioned conserving water in his daily briefing and will partner with the Water Departments to message conserving water use.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:00pm (Zoom)

Motion to adjourn meeting by Geoff Steadman, second by Pete Johnson 6:56pm Minutes by Thomas Closter