

Mayor's Water Quality Committee Agenda
For Nov. 3, 2022

a) **Call to order:**

b) Roll call: Steve Bartush: Bill Mooney, John Crespo, Diane Lauricella, Dick Harris, Harry Rilling, Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer

c) **Communications:**

DEEP

Dept. of Aquaculture – Steve

Dept. of Health – Bill or Dept. of Health Rep.

Harbor Commission –Geoff or John

Planning and Zoning –

d) **Old Business –**

1) MS 4 suggestions from Diane

2) Wilson Point Cove testing and closures Bill and/or Dick

3) **CTDEEP Consent Decree May 5th 2022 for past Violations (Discussion item).** What we know and what we don't know. All of us.

e) **New Business**

1) PFAS in proposed turf near water supply and Rec. and Parks meeting. Also, tree coverage for Norwalk and lack of open space. Diane, Dick or Joe

2) **Recommendations to move forward to the Council and other community leaders. Let's target getting it out by Mid January.**

f) **Public Comments**

g) **Reading and approval of minutes** from Oct. 6, 2022. See below

h) Next meeting is Dec, 1, 2022 or Jan. 5, 2023.

i) **Adjournment.**

CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2022

Joe Schnierlein, Chairman; Steve Bartush, John Crespo, Diane Lauricella, Geoff Steadman,
Louise Washer

William Mooney, Health Department

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

A quorum was present.

ROLL CALL COMMUNICATIONS:

- DEEP – No report.
- Dept. of Aquaculture – No report.
- Dept. of Health – Mr. Mooney said that the Mayor's Water Emergency would be starting on October 7, 2022. The police will be enforcing the emergency measures and there will be a \$90.00 fine. Discussion followed about the Taxing Districts' role when there is a drought emergency and what reservoir percentage would trigger this.
- Harbor Commission – Mr. Steadman said that they had not heard anything from the ACOE.
- Planning and Zoning – Ms. Lauricella said that at 7 p.m. there would be a P&Z continuation of the Public Hearing about the industrial zones that would include Village Creek. A brief discussion followed the parcels that were included and those that were not.

OLD BUSINESS

1) MS 4 and going forward- Diane

Ms. Lauricella said that regarding the MS 4, it was an important part of the City's Water Quality. She said that she had not received any comments and was preparing some comments. She said that she would be focused on public participation. There is an interim Public Works Director and

Ms. Lauricella said that she felt the new Interim Director would be open to public participation. She said that they needed to work on clarifying how the public would file a complaint.

Ms. Lauricella then spoke about a four part video by UConn CLEAR, an educational program, which focused on storm water utility and the work that was done in Dover, New Hampshire. She said that she would be sending the Committee members the links to the four part video series.

Storm water utility is just one of the many mechanisms used to raise funds to use to repair the infrastructure. Ms. Lauricella said that this could be a way to fund the needed repairs required by the consent decree. Discussion followed.

Mr. Steadman suggested that the Harbor Commission might be a good platform to present the information about storm water and review it for consistency with the Harbor Management Plan. He said that he would bring it to the Application Review Committee.

Discussion followed about the areas covered by the industrial zones and the information contained on the website.

Mr. Crespo said that he felt Mr. Steadman's idea was very good.

Ms. Washer said that she had seen the UConn CLEAR program. She said that Norwalk had discussed creating a storm water utility program in the past and the UConn PUSH program would be good for the Advisory to participate in. It would make total sense for the City and she recommended that the Committee present this to the Mayor's Office. She said that she would draft a letter and send it to the Committee members.

2) Wilson Point Cove testing and beach closures Bill and/or Dick – Mr. Mooney said that the last testing was done on August 31st. The test samples were all clean.

Mr. Schnierlein said that Mr. Harris had contacted him about the crabs that they had been tracking and now samples have been found all the way down to the Mianus River. They will watch and see what effect the winter weather has on this crab population.

3) CTDEEP Consent Decree May 5th 2022 for past Violations

(Discussion item). What we know and what we don't know. All of us.

A discussion followed about a recent meeting between Mr. Harris and Ralph Cole regarding the water quality. Ms. Washer suggested a meeting where the Water Quality would discuss all the things that the City is doing with Mr. Cole. She hoped it could happen in the new year.

Mr. Schnierlein said that Mr. Steadman had taken the lead on this project and was trying to contact the leader of Harbor Watch for a conversation. He said it was upsetting that the Save the Sound was provided with more information than the Water Quality Committee. Save the Sound

was among the first to receive the information about the Harbor's rankings before the Water Quality Committee was.

Ms. Lauricella said that she had been doing her own research on this issue and agreed with Ms. Washer that the City was taking many steps to improve water quality. Having a public meeting to explain this would be important. However, Ms. Lauricella said that she was hoping to have a dialog with the WPCA about including the Water Quality Committee as part of the group when issues arise.

NEW BUSINESS

1) PFAS in proposed turf near water supply.

Mr. Schnierlein said that Ms. Washer had alerted him to the fact that the Broad River would be getting three artificial sports fields. The Broad River sports fields are located right across the street from the Kellogg/Deering well field and the artificial turf has PFAS involved in the grass blades and shed PFAS. She said that the company involved claims that there is no PFAS in their product, but samples were found to contain PFAS. There were also concerns about crumb rubber infill and other types of infill materials. Discussion followed about not only the materials used but what happens to the materials when the turf is removed.

Ms. Lauricella said that she had some ideas on how to structure a public discussion. Ms. Washer said that she had already created a letter and added that she would be sending along some information to the other Committee Members. Mr. Schnierlein said that the pros and cons of using artificial turf has been discussed since the 1980's. He added that he had been in touch with someone who involved as a soccer goalie about researching the Washington soccer research.

Additional discussion followed. Mr. Schnierlein said that the discussion for the Water Quality would be the amount of PFAS from the artificial fields. The parents will have to weigh in on the other considerations such as grass vs. artificial turf.

Mr. Crespo suggested that they request the companies for a leachability study. Mr. Schnierlein said that he would request that type of study.

Ms. Lauricella said that the new Parks and Recreation Director was doing a study on the use of the various fields and how to prevent the overuse of the fields.

2) CTDEEP Consent Decree May 5th 2022 for past Violations (Discussion item). What we know and what we don't know. All of us.

There was no additional information available.

3) Anything else?

Mr. Steadman asked for a update on Maritime grant funding. Ms. Washer said that she had not heard anything yet. She was told that they would be hearing sometime in November.

Mr. Schnierlein said that according to the USGS documents, the water temperature has dropped to about 60 degrees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no one present who wish to comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• Sept. 1, 2022

Mr. Schnierlein asked if there were any additional comments regarding the minutes.

Ms. Lauricella said that after Ms. Lynnell Jones spoke, Ms. Lauricella said that she had stated she was concerned when a citizen feels unwelcomed.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had pointed out to Ms. Jones that Ms. Jones had felt that the Water Quality Committee had not done anything. Mr. Schnierlein said that he had subsequently spoken with both Mr. Harris and Mr. Mooney and also took Mr. Harris out to check the site. Mr. Mooney worked on getting the neighbors to agree to dye testing. The final results was that it was not the neighbors septic systems. Mr. Schnierlein said that he had not said that at the time.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had requested Save the Sound test in the Harbor at that meeting. He was informed that they could not do it because they did not have the resources available at the time. Mr. Schnierlein requested that this be included in the notes.

**** A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED. ** MS. LAURICELLA SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

h) Next meeting is Nov. 3, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. BARTUSH MOVED TO ADJOURN ** MR. CRESPO SECONDED**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services