

Mayor's Water Quality Committee
City of Norwalk
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chairman; Steve Bartush, Pete Johnson, Dick Harris, Diane Lauricella, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer

STAFF: William Mooney

OTHER: Dr. Joe Pinto

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:04

B. ROLL CALL

Mr. Mooney acknowledged attendees. A quorum was present

C. COMMUNICATIONS

- DEEP: No Report.
- Department of Aquaculture: Mr. Steadman noted they are still trying to develop a scope of work for the Shellfish Enhancement Project in the area of south of Veteran's Park. Mr. Schnierlein noted a meeting is being scheduled with Dr. Crosby and department heads to come up with a plan.
- Department of Health: Mr. Mooney noted beach samples have been good and beaches have remained open. Mr. Schnierlein discussed, Mr. Harris did a sample a few weeks ago due to red water. Milford waters contained red algae and a note was sent to Diana.
- Harbor Commission: Mr. Steadman noted that Eversource is still working through the regulatory process. The pre-application plan was submitted to the Harbor Commission. The Harbor Commission looked at the plans, and the Commission requested additional information from Eversource. It was discussed for the first time an exclusion zone around the cables. The commission reserves the right to continue to review and provide comments. A condition to the permit to include if there are any additional costs required for the maintenance of the docks and/or replacement of the dock or pilings as a result of the transmission lines, Eversource would pay the additional costs. Mr. Schnierlein suggested that the Eversource lines going in and going out are specifically marked. He noted in the past, when Maritime was installing docks, an effort was made

to locate the cables and the exact location could not be determined. Mr. Steadman noted that the Resiliency Study & the Rezoning study will be a continuing discussion.

- Planning & Zoning: Chairman recommended discussion under New Business
- Dick Harris: Mr. Harris noted 12 rivers in the middle of the state have been declared a fishing advisory alert to include not to eat fresh water fish no more than once a week due to PFAS. He acknowledged if all the rivers were tested, they would have a similar alert. Multiple testing has been done at Norwalk River sites but no results as of yet.
- DPW Treatment Plant Tour: Three people signed up for tour. The tour was postponed due to lack of people. Ms. Lauricella suggested a DPW designee attend our meeting to provide an update on the status of the DEEP violation notice and/or upcoming budget. Chairman Schnierlein noted, he invited a designee from DPW multiple times in the past and they responded with committee members are welcome to join their meeting.

D. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Harris is waiting on results from the \$75 test. Chairman noted he saw on News12 that Wilton did not approve the new turf by only 4 votes, and we need to keep it on our radar. Chairman Schnierlein will send a note to the common council regarding the proposed Broad River Fields. Mr. Harris noted that the Connecticut Bill SB100 \$75,000,000 to help local communities with PFAS did NOT pass. However, 3M and Dupont have allocated billions of dollars. Chairman Schnierlein recommended that we send this information to City Hall to possibly receive some money. As of September 1st, 2024 the new limit is 4 parts per trillion PFOA by the EPA was noted by Mr. Harris.
- Directory of Contacts: Ms. Lauricella is compiling a directory of contacts. This will be used for guidance with direct department contacts to ensure quick action to an issue. The guide would include a suggested department to call for an issue. She will send out a draft to the commission for review and comments.

E. NEW BUSINESS

- PFAS Sampling Norwalk River: Mr. Harris is in the process of testing with an inexpensive test from Cyclopure and will compare the results with York Labs.
- Potential Zoning Changes: Mr. Steadman discussed the on-going zoning proposal as it relates to the waterfront, the Connecticut Coastal Management Act, and the Norwalk's Municipal Coastal Program. He noted he has been involved in the past 40 years and provided history on when the Acts were implemented. The development of Norwalk's Municipal Coastal Program began in 1981, being initiated and completed by the city's Planning and zoning commission and Staff under the authority of the Connecticut

Coastal Management Act. The Planning & Zoning commission adopted the amendments to the Plan of Conservation and Development Act in 1982. In 1988, The Marine Commercial District zone was created to protect the water dependent uses along water street. Mr. Steadman said it's appropriate and respectful to recognize what the people did who worked long and hard before us to protect the development along the waterfront. Ms. Lauricella strongly encouraged the committee and public to send comments and opinions to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Lynnelle Jones thanked Mr. Steadman for his presentation on the history of the prior efforts in preserving the waterfront.

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

****MR. BARTUSH MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 1, 2023 MINUTES
**MR. HARRIS & MS. WASHER SECONDED
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

H. NEXT MEETING AUGUST 3, 2023

I. ADJOURNMENT

****MR. BARTUSH MOVED TO ADJOURN
**MR. JOHNSON SECONDED
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Watson
Telesco Secretarial Services