

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chairman; Diane Lauricella; Dick Harris; John Crespo; Steve Bartush; Geoffry Steadman

OTHER: Dr. John Pinto; William Mooney

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. There was a quorum present.

ROLL CALL

A roll call of those present was performed.

COMMUNICATIONS

DEEP – ANY ONE

Mr. Steadman reported that he had talked with D.E.E.P. about the status of the review of the Eversource permit application. He said that they should not anticipate a public notice about the tentative determination to approve it and they had more reviews to do. He said that D.E.E.P. intends to require Eversource to post a performance bond. Further discussion followed. There has also been an update to the status of D.E.E.P.'s review of the proposed amendment to the POCD. The letter is still being developed.

DEPT. OF AQUACULTURE OR HEALTH DEPT. – STATUS FOR VIBRIO

Mr. Mooney reported that there had not been any notifications regarding the status of Vibrio. There had been a CDC advisory that had gone out recently regarding concern for increased cases.

HARBOR COMMISSION –GEOFF OR

Mr. Steadman reported that there was a proposal by the DoT to work on route 7 that was of interest.

PLANNING AND ZONING – DICK HARRIS

Mr. Harris reported that there had been a sampling study for PFOS that was 3,600 pages long. He provided an overview of what was in the report for those present.

DPW – TREATMENT PLANT TOUR – CANCELLED.

Efforts have been made to break the tour into two separate visits.

OLD BUSINESS

DIRECTORY OF WHO TO CALL - DIANE

Ms. Lauricella said she had reached out to Planning & Zoning and Mr. Mooney to collect their complaint forms.

NEW BUSINESS

POTENTIAL ZONING CHANGES -STILL INTENT ON MULTIPLE FAMILY HOUSING ON WATER ST. AND CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPING ON SITES KNOW FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE.

Mr. Steadman provided the Harbor Commissions recommendations for review. He said that the Harbor Management Commission was not able to make a favorable recommendation concerning the proposed POCD amendment. Review of the reasons followed. He provided photos of flooding on Water Street for those present. Further discussion regarding Water Street followed. Ms. Lauricella noted that there were still questions regarding the existence or absence of contamination. She provided further information including the discovery of several barrels. Further discussion followed.

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED THAT THE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES THAT THE LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATIONS ARE CONNECTED TO WATER QUALITY MATTERS IN MULTIPLE WAYS. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT THE WATERFRONT DOES AND HAS REMAINED A VITAL ASSET. THE LAND USE STUDY CONTAINS MAIN VALUABLE DETAILS BUT TWO MAJOR ITEMS ARE IN NEED OF ATTENTION AND AMENDMENT. THE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE WILL WRITE A LETTER TO THE MAYORS OFFICE AND PLANNING AND ZONING TO REQUEST THAT THE INDUSTRIAL WATERFRONT ZONE LAND USE STUDY ADOPTION BE REJECTED AND PLACED ON HOLD UNTIL THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ARE DISCUSSED WITH THIS COMMITTEE AND OTHERS AND AMENDED:**

- 1. THE CONTAMINATED SITES IN THE STUDY AREA.**
- 2. TO SUPPORT ALL OF THE ITEMS IN THE LETTER WRITTEN BY THE HARBOR COMMISSION RELATED TO THE QUESTION OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE FLOOD PLAIN AND REDUCTION OF FUTURE MARINE DISTRICT EXPANSION.**

**** MR. BARTUSH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH AN ADDITIONAL 'YES' VOTE FROM MR. BARTUSH'S CAT.**

Discussion followed regarding the placement of a school within the flood plane as well as other development projects within flood plains. Mr. Steadman provided a flood insurance map for review.

RT 7 AND MERRITT INTERCHANGE DEVELOPMENT. NO MENTION OF IMPACT ON SILVERMINE R. AND NORWALK R. WATERSHEDS.

Chairman Schnierlein provided an overview of the item for those present. Mr. Steadman noted that they had missed the deadline for submitting public comments. He provided a review of the project for those present. Further discussion followed.

CLIMATE CHANGE, HEAT, AND WQ: BRIEF GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT CURRENT AND NEAR-FUTURE EFFECTS – DIANE’S REQUEST

Ms. Lauricella said that she felt that one of their roles was to offer the mayor and the City resources related to the role that climate change is making on water quality and quantity. She suggested a webinar to discuss these things before the end of the year. Chairman Schneirlein said he would be happy to provide information.

ANYTHING ELSE?

There was nothing else at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS IF TIME PERMITS

There were no Public Comments at this time.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 8-3-2023.

- ** MR. STEADMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 08/03/2023 AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. BARTUSH SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) IN FAVOR (SCHNEIRLEIN, STEADMAN, HARRIS, LAURICELLA, CRESPO) AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION (BARTUSH).**

NEXT MEETING IS OCT. 5, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Ian A. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services