

**CITY OF NORWALK
MAYOR'S WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
November 3, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Joe Schnierlein, Chairman; John Crespo, Dick Harris, Diane Lauricella, Geoff Steadman, Louise Washer

OTHERS: William Mooney, Health Department

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Schnierlein called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- **DEEP** – No report.

- **Dept. of Aquaculture** – No report.

- **Dept. of Health** – Mr. Mooney reminded everyone that the drought emergency is continuing. The reservoir are at about 42% capacity and it would take an estimate of 8-10 inches of rain to reach an acceptable level.

- **Harbor Commission** – Mr. Steadman said that there will be a joint informational meeting with Eversource on November 16th meeting regarding the transmission lines under the Norwalk River.

Mr. Steadman then spoke about the industrial rezoning on the south part of Water Street. He reviewed the details of the plan.

There has not been any communication from the ACOE about the Railroad Bridge.

Mr. Steadman then spoke about the status of public access to the Norwalk River and Harbor.

Mr. Schnierlein commented that when power lines are buried in riverbeds, they tend to generate heat and it could have some serious impacts on that section of the river during July and August. The thermal impact could change the water temperature and affect migrating fish.

- **Planning and Zoning** – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

1) MS 4 suggestions from Diane

Ms. Lauricella said she would have something to present in December.

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

Mr. Harris said that they had done three sets of testing. Two of the tests were done in dry weather and the results were good. The third test was done during wet weather and it appears that the higher levels are due to run off from the land. Mr. Schnierlein noted that due to the fact that there was so little rain during the summer resulted in more goose droppings remaining on ground which would raise the bacterial levels when runoff happened.

Ms. Lauricella said that they should state the type of testing that was done for the public. Mr. Harris said that they had tested for Enterococci.

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

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

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had not heard any addition information about the Consent Decree.

Ms. Lauricella said that this was the time when the Capital Budgets were being created and she encouraged the Committee to speak to the administration and the BET about seeing the problems resolved sooner than later.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Harris said that there were just eight people in attendance at the recent meeting with Recreation and Parks.

Mr. Schnierlein said that the Parks Department had accepted their comments about the PFAS without comment.

The discussion moved to the amount of open space in relationship to the amount of development that is being proposed. He said that the Committee was aware of the issue but had not committed to anything verbally.

Ms. Lauricella said that with every bit of new development requires installation of modern plumbing and use best management practices for storm water. She said that she often reminds developers about including rain gardens and green roofs.

Regarding the PFAS issues, Ms. Lauricella spoke with the new Director of Parks and Recreation, Robert Stowers, about the fact that the well field already has PFAS contamination and the new turf field is very near the well field. She said that she would encourage the Committee members to write a letter regarding the environmental health issues and the sports injuries issue. She suggested that Mr. Stowers perform a cradle to grave study on natural sports fields vs. artificial turf sports fields. Mr. Stowers said that he would utilize the latest technologies, but Ms. Lauricella said that they should have a neutral party analyze the results.

Mr. Harris said that PFAS was a serious issue and suggested that the Committee research a DuPont situation that happened in West Virginia. Mr. Harris said that he had called two different laboratories and both were dealing with PFAS issues. He also mentioned that there were types of pollutants that comes off of rubber tires.

There is an additional type of pesticide that is also killing off fish. Discussion followed.

Ms. Washer said that she would like to send a letter about the PFAS issue and discussed the details. She will send out the newest draft of the letter in the next few days. She said that there were a number of tests that had already been run.

Mr. Harris listed a number of different types of cancers that have been traced to back to PFAS.

Ms. Lauricella suggested a summit meeting with the Mayor's Office, Recreation and Parks and the Health Department to discuss this issue before the end of the year. Ms. Washer said that she had a video that she would like to send to the Committee members. Mr. Harris said that there was a documentary called Dark Waters that the Committee should see. Discussion followed.

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED TO SCHEDULE A SUMMIT MEETING ON THE PFAS RUN OFF FROM THE ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELD BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.**

**** THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A SECOND.**

Mr. Schnierlein suggested that they write the letter and suggest a round table meeting about this. The discussion moved to the types of testing that were done when the Georgetown wire mill was following its closing in the 1980s.

Ms. Washer said that Beyond Pesticides has some funding from Stoneybrook Farms about the management of pesticide free sports fields. The City banned the use of pesticides on municipal property.

Mr. Steadman said that he had attended a walk along Calf Pasture Beach with members of the Tree Alliance. Norwalk was identified as having the clearest tree canopy in Fairfield County. Mr. Steadman said that Stamford has something called the stewardship scorecard which allows developers to get extra credit for environmental innovations.

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

Mr. Schnierlein said that he would like to compile a listing of topics to present to the Common Council and acknowledged that PFAS would most likely head the list.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Ms. Lauricella said that she had recently attended some classes and announced that the EPA will be having a class about preparing the public regarding PFAS in the drinking water. She will forward some of the information to the Committee members.

UConn CLEAR has developed a Watershed Mapping Tool and this may potentially have mapped every watershed and sub watershed in the areas. She will be sending the link to the Committee members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• October 6, 2022

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2022 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. HARRIS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Mr. Schnierlein said that he would not be present for the December meeting. Ms. Lauricella said that she would chair the meeting if something needs to be addressed.

Ms. Lauricella said that there would be a public hearing at 7 p.m. for a Tree Planting Plan. WestCOG did a tree canopy study and it would cost about \$150,000 for a Master Tree Planting Plan. Mr. Schnierlein cautioned everyone and related the details of a tree planting program at BMHS that had been destroyed by careless mowing.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. LAURICELLA MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MR. CRESPO SECONDED
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services