

Mayor's Water Quality Committee Agenda  
For Jan. 5, 2023

a) **Call to order:**

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

c) **Communications:**

DEEP – Dec. PFAS webinar -Joe and anyone else who saw it  
Dept. of Aquaculture – Steve or Geoff  
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) Mitten Crabs - Dick

e) **New Business**

- 1) **Recommendations to move forward to the Council and other community leaders. Let's target getting it out by Mid January. Last year's attached below**

f) **Public Comments**

g) **Reading and approval of minutes** from Dec. 1, 2022. See below

h) Next meeting is Feb. 2, 2023.

i) **Adjournment.**

## CALL TO ORDER

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

## ROLL CALL

The roll was called. A quorum was present. COMMUNICATIONS:

- DEEP – No report.
- Dept. of Aquaculture – Mr. Bartush said that he had heard that they were scheduling

the annual meeting around the 3rd week in January.

- Dept. of Health – Bill or Dept. of Health Rep.—Mr. Mooney said that the reservoir was still below normal. Mr. Schnierlein asked if there was any discussion

- Harbor Commission –Geoff or John – On November 16th, Mr. Steadman said there was a joint meeting of the Shellfish Commission and the Harbor Commission with Eversource about the proposed route of the electrical lines through Veterans Park. The line will go under the river and beneath the visitor's dock. He said that the property owner on the west side would not allow Eversource to trench through his property. The current proposal is going to the full Common Council and they are working on obtaining the various approvals they need. He said that the Harbor Commission had informed the Common Council via a letter that the Harbor Commission would be reviewing the application and gave the details of that.

Mr. Schnierlein said that they had received a report about the drilling that would take place on the river bed, but there was no mention of the heat that would actually be generated by the lines and this could in turn raise the temperature in the river and affect the migratory fish.

Ms. Lauricella said that the Economic and Community Development Committee would be reviewing the plan for the industrial waterfront zone proposal. It goes before the full Council at their next meeting.

Mr. Steadman said that this issue was very significant for the Harbor Commission and gave the details. He said that it may change the Plan of Conservation and Development along with other changes. Discussion followed about the details. Mr. Steadman said that he would check with Dr. Pinto regarding the timeline and the process.

- Planning and Zoning – No report.
- Old Business –

1) MS 4 suggestions from Diane –

Ms. Lauricella said that her computer was down most of the day and she was not able to send out the MS4 document. One of the main thrusts was the public participation on and suggested that the City have a round table summit regarding updating the MS4 document every year.

2) Wilson Point Cove testing Bill and/or Dick – Mr. Mooney said they had not done any testing since the colder weather set in.

Ms. Lauricella asked if additional funding was being requested to expand the testing and analysis. Mr. Mooney said that the funding was being used for the interns' salaries.

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had spoken with a Council Member who was concerned about water quality. He explained that there was no way to do the water testing in Norwalk and DEEP lab is swamped. He said that he had made the Council Member aware of this need and suggested that the testing be done somewhere in southwest Connecticut. Discussion followed.

3) CT DEEP 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 new information. Ms. Lauricella said that since the budget was being created, it would be good to find out if something had been included for the consent decree.

4) PFAS in proposed turf near water supply and Rec. and Parks meeting. Also, tree coverage for Norwalk and lack of open space.

Mr. Schnierlein said that there had been some testing done on the water and the samples have been sent out for analysis. Mr. Schnierlein said that he had asked Mr. Stone, the new Parks and

Rec Director, about the benefits of playing and potentially breathing in Astro turf as opposed to playing on a grass field. Ms. Lauricella said that Mr. Stone was not a chemist, but he felt that he could handle the pros and cons. However, Ms. Lauricella said that she felt that a neutral party should be doing the recommendations. It is not enough to have the company that makes the artificial turf to make recommendations, particularly since the City will be making an investment of over \$1 million dollars. Discussion followed.

## NEW BUSINESS

1) Save the Sound Report card. Everyone. Please read. This was sent to you earlier.

Mr. Sam Marquand, of Save the Sound, greeted the Committee members. Mr. Schnierlein said that he had invited the Save the Sound group to participate in the meeting. He said that the analysis was done by scientists who were not out in the field taking the samples. Some of changes in the data occurred due to climate change or migrating fish. However, this is not communicated in the report. Reports cards are something that are done by humans, but the changes noted may not be caused by humans. Discussion followed.

Wall St. Corridor and StS report. – Diane

Ms. Lauricella said that she had heard about the plans for rejuvenating the Wall Street area including the transportation and parking. She mentioned a team from Stamford who had already re-invigorated other parts of the Wall Street area. She said that there were about five main topics, but they had not included anything about water quality. She suggested that they have a joint meeting so that TMV might be able to hear some suggestions about cleaning, and slowing down and

2) 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

To be continued. Mr. Schnierlein said that the Committee should send their recommendations to him to add to the list.

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

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Schnierlein asked Mr. Marquand if he was still on the call. Mr. Marquand said that he was. Mr. Schnierlein asked Mr. Marquand if he was aware of the severe drought that the City had gone through. Mr. Marquand said that it was mentioned in the notes but he would take the information back to the group.

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There was no other member of the public that wished to comment at this time.

#### READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Nov. 3, 2022.

Mr. Mooney noted that the date on the header was incorrect. It will be changed.

**\*\* MS. LAURICELLA MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2022 MEETING AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* MR. CRESPO SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next meeting is Jan. 5, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT. Mr. Schnierlein adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

### **Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee Recommendations for 2020-2021**

The Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee first appeared in Norwalk in 1991 as a response to a law suit against the City over bacterial contamination of the waters of Long Island Sound. The Committee's responsibility is to make recommendations to the Harbor Commission, Shellfish Commission and the City in regards to existing or potential problems associated with water in the community as well as the waters of Long Island Sound. The committee remained active until 2016, and was rejuvenated in 2018 to look into the issues around the "Walk" bridge and the CTDOT's lack of an environmental impact statement as well as an admitted lack of environmental mitigation. Participants presently on the committee are: Jim Bartley, Steve Bartush, John Crespo, Dick Harris, Diane Lauricella, Chris Malik, Bill Mooney, Harry Rilling, John Romano, Joe Schnierlein, Geoff Steadman, If you would like to hear more about any one or all of the recommendations please feel free to contact us.

#### **Mission Statement:**

The purpose of the Norwalk Mayor's Water Quality Committee is to analyse objectively the waters of Norwalk Harbor and its watershed, provide a continuing forum for discussion of water quality issues, and to suggest measures to protect and improve the integrity of its waters. Findings and recommendations formulated by the Committee shall be shared with all appropriate City authorities/agencies/commissions, notably the Norwalk Harbor Commission and the Norwalk Shellfish Commission which act as the environmental guardians of Norwalk Harbor. While pursuing its mission, the Committee shall be guided by the water quality provisions established in the Norwalk Harbor Management Plan, Norwalk Shellfish Management Plan, and other duly established city, state, and federal laws, regulations, ordinances, and plans. In addition to ongoing communications with the aforementioned parties, the committee shall provide an annual report and recommendations of their findings.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. Continue to pursue, encourage, and support initiatives, in coordination with the Norwalk Harbor Management Commission (NHMC), Norwalk Shellfish Commission (NSC), other governmental entities, including; WPCA, Health Department, Harbor Watch, Contract Labs, P&Z, DPW, the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative and private organizations, to advance the water-quality-related provisions of the Norwalk Harbor Management Plan, the Norwalk River Action Plan and Norwalk Watershed Action Plan
2. Encourage and support DEEP establishment of a new General Permit or other appropriate means for regulating the discharge of storm water from non-municipal separate storm sewer systems constructed on private roads.

3. Encourage and support State and Federal legislative and/or regulatory initiatives to require CT DOT to include storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) in all new and refurbished highway infrastructure draining to Connecticut's coastal waterways, such as included in the Yankee Doodle Bridge project, but not included in the Saugatuck River Bridge project.
4. Encourage and support, continued development with assistance from the Norwalk Engineering Bureau and Planning and Zoning Department, a comprehensive GIS-based map of storm drain outfalls discharging into Norwalk Harbor, including but not limited to all outfalls subject to the MS4 General Permit.
5. Support the recommendations for water-quality monitoring protocols and BMPs being developed by the NHMC and NSC for inclusion in the DEEP Permit for the Walk Bridge Project.
6. Support continuance of the Norwalk River Watershed Initiative (NRWI) as an intermunicipal, collaborative entity for identifying and addressing water quality issues on a watershed-wide basis. Encourage and support a contribution of funds by all watershed towns, including the City of Norwalk, to re-establish the part-time position of NRWI Coordinator.
7. Encourage and support Planning and Zoning Department review and reform existing land-use regulations to identify opportunities for strengthening requirements for resiliency and environmental protection, developing buffer zones and including protection and enhancement of water quality and effective enforcement.
8. Support continuation of the NHMC and NSC storm drain sampling and testing program, including sampling and testing of additional drains. Support development of a memorandum of agreement among the NHMC, NSC, Norwalk Health Department, and Harbor Watch concerning the use of all funds provided to Harbor Watch by the NHMC, NSC, and Health Department to support continued water quality monitoring in Norwalk Harbor. This becomes critical should the Health Dept. close their lab.
9. Design and implement public outreach initiatives to increase public awareness of water quality and quantity issues and public support for water quality and quantity initiatives, including but not limited to web-based initiatives.
10. Encourage and support establishment of permanent water quality monitoring stations in Norwalk Harbor providing real time data useful for harbor management, land-use planning and Health Dept. purposes.
11. Encourage and support City plans and other initiatives for preserving, enhancing, and maintaining public trees—the trees located on City properties and right-of-ways—including initiatives for improving urban tree canopy and protecting the natural resource values of trees. Create ordinances to establish enforcement of no leaf disposal in Norwalk Waters.
12. Encourage and support Green Infrastructure in public and private construction projects used to cool down, slow down and clean up stormwater runoff and drainage.
13. Encourage and support environmentally sound elimination of PFAS chemicals and other contaminants from drinking water.
14. Identify, map and resolve ongoing pollution concerns for both public and private drinking water resources and potential leaking into the harbor.
15. Encourage and enforce water conservation to prepare for on-going climate change.