



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, October 29, 2020
Time: 6:30pm
Place: This meeting was held remotely

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Stella, Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Curtis, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood. Excused was Rep. Giordano. Also present were Reps. Adams, Coleman, and de la Cruz; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Health, Safety & Welfare; Trevor Roach, Fire Chief; Tyler Theder, MS-4 Compliance Officer; State Rep. David Michel; Damien Ortelli, Harbor Management Commission; Eric Knott, former Harbor Master; Sgt. Kevin Fitzgibbons, SPD; Ted Ferrarone, BLT; Tracy Babbidge, DEEP Bureau Chief; and members of the public.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
<i>Under a Suspension of the Rules:</i>		
¹ 7. PS30.074	Review: COVID-19 update. 10/29/20 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Morson	Report Made

A motion was made, seconded and approved to suspend the rules by a vote of 5-2-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Curtis, Matherne, and Sandford in favor; Reps. McMullen and Sherwood opposed).

A motion was made, seconded and approved to take up this item by a vote of 5-2-1 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Curtis, Palomba, and Sandford in favor; Reps. Matherne and Sherwood opposed; and Rep. McMullen abstaining).

Vice Chair Morson gave a brief update on Mayor Martin's press release from earlier in the day. COVID-19 cases have been rising in the region. Stamford is now in the "red zone" again, and will be rolling back to Phase 2 of reopening until further notice.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:01:25

- ²1. PS30.065 REVIEW; Details of MS4 Stormwater Management **Report Made**
Mandate and Effect on City and Its Residents.
09/09/20 – Submitted by Rep. Stella, Adams,
Sherwood and Coleman
10/01/20 – Report Made & Held in Committee 7-0-0

Mr. Theder explained that on October 13, 2020 cleaning was conducted on streets that are part of the alternate side of street parking program. According to a citation officer, 15 tickets were issued and no vehicles were towed. Mr. Theder checked the area today and it looks good. He has been working with Transportation Bureau Chief Jim Travers and the Traffic Advisory Committee to expand the alternate side of street parking program to make way for cleaning in other areas and possibly creating more signage. He is especially looking to expand the program on the West Side.

- ³2. [PS30.068](#) REVIEW; Impact of Work Performed by A. Vitti **Held 8-0-0**
Construction on Air Quality.
09/01/2020 – Submitted by Reps. Coleman, Adams,
Stella, Figueroa, Zelinsky, Sherwood and Di Costanzo
10/01/20 –Held in Committee 8-0-0

Ms. Babbidge explained DEEP's involvement and there was discussion.

- DEEP's jurisdiction is with ambient air, and it does not have jurisdiction over buildings. Buildings are within the purview of the City. The City does not have the ability to regulate air quality. At some point DEEP and the City need to connect.
- The DEEP team has found no recent violations on this site.
- DEEP can communicate inspection reports to the BOR unless there is an ongoing enforcement case.
- There have been complaints about this property for many years.
- This issue involves zoning regulations and the Land Use Bureau.
- Outdoor rock crushing is not allowed in Stamford unless the crushing involves a construction site.
- A. Vitti Construction (Vitti) was taken to court and an agreement was reached to allow indoor crushing.
- The Vitti property should be constantly monitored to ensure the air coming out of the building is safe. Air quality must meet national standards.
- The Committee will invite the Land Use Bureau Chief to the next meeting.
- There is a "community based monitoring" system that could be looked into for this property.
- Mr. Jankowski has been to the Vitti property recently. There is an Operations Plan in place and so far Vitti has properly complied with the plan.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Curtis, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sherwood and Sandford in favor).

² Video Time Stamp: 00:08:50

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:13:08

43. [PS30.073](#) REVIEW; Impact on Air Quality and Possibility of Discharge of Contaminants into Stamford Waters due to Work being performed by Construction Company at the BLT Property Located in the South End. **Held 8-0-0**
10/08/20 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis, Sanford, Sherwood, Adams & Coleman

Chair Stella stated he recently visited Kosciuszko Park and saw dust in the air, travelling with the wind, and eventually going into the water. Rep. de la Cruz has also witnessed floating dust recently in the area and took a video.

- In addition to constituent complaints about dust, there have been many concerns about construction work going on at night.
- Ms. Babbidge said the DEEP team has been to the site regularly, overseeing dust management and responding to complaints. Since there are open case actions right now she cannot go into detail, however as of two weeks ago, there have been ongoing improvements to dust management practices on the site.
- Dust often ends up in the water, depending on the direction of the wind.
- With all of the development going on in Stamford it is important that all construction sites are monitored to make sure companies are adhering to the allowed hours of construction.
- Mr. Ferrarone will review Rep. de la Cruz's video as soon as he gets it.

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Curtis, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sherwood and Sandford in favor).

54. [PS30.070](#) REVIEW; October 3, 2020 Harbor Point Boat Fires and the Response of Stamford Fire Marine Unit and Stamford Police. **Report Made**
10/08/20 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis, Sanford and Sherwood

Chair Stella explained that this was a fact-finding discussion, not a criticism of the response. Director Jankowski, Chief Roach, Sergeant Fitzgibbons and Mr. Ortelli reviewed the incident and response, and there was discussion.

- There was no injury or loss of life.
- The fire originated at the Hinckley marina, and per procedure the boat was released from the dock due to the close proximity of the fuel pumps. Unfortunately, the boat drifted and caused four other boats to catch on fire. It was a very rapidly moving fire.
- There was initially a strategic issue because the first boat on scene went to the Hinckley Marina where the fire originated.
- The Stamford fire boat was out of commission that day due to repairs.
- The fire was under control within one hour and 10 minutes.

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 01:24:00

⁵ Video Time Stamp: 01:41:00

- There are mutual aid agreements in place. The Coast Guard, Norwalk, Greenwich, and FDNY/City Island all responded.
- The dock had the proper equipment and safety measures in place.
- The Stamford Fire Marshall is in charge of inspecting the dock equipment.
- So far this year there have been 26 calls for the fire boat.
- A fire engine is always on land as close as possible to the event.
- Equipment, procedures and training are essential for everyone's safety.

65. [PS30.071](#) REVIEW; Stamford Police Dept and Stamford Fire **Report Made**
 Dept Marine Unit Operational Capabilities and Current
 Status.
 10/08/20 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis, Sanford
 and Sherwood
6. PS30.072 REVIEW; Mutual Aid Agreements and Response **Report Made**
 Times with Surrounding Communities' Marine Units,
 the US Coast Guard and FDNY.
 10/08/20 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis,
 Sanford, Sherwood, Adams & Coleman

Items No. 5 and 6 were discussed together.

- The West Branch is a narrow, busy channel.
- There are no plans to change the fueling site at this time.
- The Harbor Unit police coverage is minimal. An increased presence would be helpful.
- Three officers would be the ideal number for patrolling: one to pilot the vessel and two for hands-on with enforcement, especially if boarding another vessel.
- After every incident the response process should be reviewed and tweaked if necessary, to determine how to respond to future similar incidents.
- A risk assessment of the harbor should be done to mitigate future risks.
- The mutual aid agreement works well, but it should be reviewed to see if the agreement could be improved.
- It should be determined what is needed and possible within the City budget.
- Director Jankowski stated his department tries to get grant funds whenever possible, reaching out to the City grants office and lobbyists.

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 9:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).