



ECOTOXICOLOGY COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMISSION ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT ▪ CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Hadassah Mativetsky, City Council President

Sarah Dinhofer, City Clerk

Richard Jannaccio, Committee Chairperson

Darius Bang, Committee Secretary

ECOTOXICOLOGY COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMISSION ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Meeting Minutes

City Council Work Session Room – Binghamton City Hall

10:05 AM Thursday, August 8, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 10:05 AM by Richard Jannaccio

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Darius Bang, Richard Jannaccio

Members Absent: None

Ex-Officio Members Present: None

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Hadassah Mativetsky – City Council President, Josh Paludi – Acting Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, Nick Ballard – Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Commission - unnamed

III. MINUTES

1. Richard Jannaccio suggests fixing definition of ecotoxicology and structure of how motions are written out. Darius Bang agrees that fixes sound logical and agrees to make changes.
2. Motion to approve minutes
 - a. Motion: Bang
 - b. Second: Jannaccio
 - c. Vote: Passes, 2-0

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

Motion to close public comment

- a. Motion: Bang
- b. Second: Jannaccio
- c. Vote: Passes, 2-0

V. COMMITTEE TASK FORCE REPORTS

Motion to forgo task force reports until more set schedules are in place

- a. Motion: Bang
- b. Second: Jannaccio
- c. Vote: Passes, 2-0



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VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

Motion to close new business

- a. Motion: Bang
- b. Second: Jannaccio
- c. Vote: Passes, 2-0

VII. FUTURE MEETING

Forgo until more set schedules are in place

VIII. GUEST SPEAKER

Jannaccio: Introduces former Binghamton professor, Prof. Paul Connett, who has brought in to speak about the potential dangers of the practice of fluoridating water supply, and make a case for why Binghamton should stop fluoridating its water

Connett: Is a retired professor of chemistry specialized in environmental chemistry and ecotoxicology, has spent 28 years studying the topic of water fluoridation

Helped to form science-based organization Fluoride Action Network (FAN) in 2000, was director for many years

Co-authored book "The Case Against Fluoride," published in 2010

Presents a PowerPoint slide show entitled "Why Binghamton Should Stop Fluoridating Its Water"

Main points include

- Fluoridation is the deliberate addition of fluoride ions into drinking water, not meant to treat water but rather treat tooth decay
- Fluoridation has no nutritional value, 50% excreted by kidneys, rest absorbed by bones
- Fluoride is not FDA approved
- Safety of fluoride not monitored by any division of the CDC
- Fluoride is not pharmaceutical grade, obtained from the scrubbing systems of the phosphate fertilizer industry
- Fluoride often promoted as a great health achievement with little credibility to back it up
- Fluoridation makes no difference in tooth decay rates in countries with fluoridated water when compared to countries without
- ADA (American Dental Association) is largely behind the fluoridation of water supplies, is not concerned with health, put out statement in the 70s saying dentist need not be familiar with scientific reports on the matter of fluoridation
- We cannot control the dosage people get of fluoride because everyone drinks different amounts of water
- Evidence that fluoride can damage bones and teeth in certain amounts, and can serve as an endocrine disruptor and lower thyroid functioning
- Has the potential to lower IQ of the children of pregnant women drinking fluoridated water, as proven by many studies
- Fluoride works primarily on the outside of the tooth, so why force people to swallow it?



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- Poor diet is a more likely cause of tooth decay, and we could make a more meaningful impact by informing children on proper dental hygiene and diet rather than using the current method of fluoridation (ex. Childsmile in Scotland)
- Fluoridation is not required by the state
- Fluoridation is an Environmental Justice issue
- The National Research Council Advises against using tap water for infant formula. If mothers use Binghamton tap water for infant formula, their babies are getting more than 100 times the amount of fluoride found in breast milk

Provided a list of references on the topic of Fluoridation

Reiterated important points, responded to some questions posed such as the level of fluoride allowed in drinking water which is current 0.7 ppm, only because the CDC saw cases of fluorosis on the rise.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:37 AM: Bang

Second: Jannaccio

Vote: Passes, 2-0

Submitted by Darius Bang, Secretary