

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 5, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.
Waterford Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lawson called the regular meeting of the Waterford Shellfish Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Welcome Members and Guests

Chairman Lawson stated Len Havens and Chris Caulkins are present at the meeting but have not been sworn in as members as of yet. He explained he has submitted their names to the First Selectman this week for consideration for appointment to the Waterford Shellfish Commission. The Board of Selectman will meet on January 19th and if the appointments are made at that time the number of Commission members allotted to the Commission will be restored after the resignations of both Jeff Thompson and Leo Facchini.

4. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Lawson, Meehan, LeBelle and Miller. Absent were Commission members Corriveau and Francolino.

5. Approval of the December 1, 2016 regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Meehan, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the December 1, 2015 regular meeting minutes as reviewed and submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Public Input

There was no one present from the public to address the Commission.

7. Correspondence

Chairman Lawson reviewed various meeting minutes, agendas, emails and correspondences sent to the Shellfish Commission over the past month. He discussed correspondence regarding sampling, closures and activity as it relates to the Waterford Shellfish Commission that was sent to him either by mail or email over the course of the past month. He extended the invitation he received from Tessa Getchis at UConn regarding the 2016 Gathering of the Shellfish Commissions 12th annual meeting on Saturday, January 23, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Sound School Regional Aquaculture Center in New Haven, CT. to the Commission members and the potential new members stating it is always worth the trip as the discussions have been informative in the past. He asked that any Commission members that would like to attend let him know as soon as possible so that he can RSVP. Chairman Lawson reviewed a correspondence from the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture and Laboratory titled “Conditionally Approved Area Sampling Requirements and Re-opening Verification Study Criteria Summary” that discusses required sampling for conditionally approved shellfish growing areas in Connecticut per the National Shellfish Sanitation Program Model Ordinance (NSSP-MO) Section II Chapter IV, Shellfish Growing Areas. Chairman Lawson stated that due to the regulations for sampling he feels that it would be best to keep the recreational shellfishing areas open year round. A discussion was held regarding modification of the shellfish permits to reflect year round harvesting of hard shell clams and it was the consensus of the Commission members to notify the Town Clerk of the change and to sell seasonal yearly permits starting on January 1st and to sell them through December 31st each year. A yearly permit purchased on January 1st will then be valid through December 31st of the same year. Previously the Shellfish Commission would close through the months of January, February and March and permit sales would be valid April 1 – December 31.

8. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Francolino was absent from the meeting so Chairman Lawson reviewed the Treasurer’s Report with the Commission with the data he received from the Waterford Finance Department through November 30, 2015. He discussed the revenues, expenditures and bills submitted throughout the month for payment.

Motion made by Commissioner Meehan, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to approve the Treasurer’s Report as reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

9. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated the recreational shell fishing areas are currently open and will remain open year round with the exception of closures due to rainfall. A discussion was held regarding notifications from Ledge Light regarding closures.

10. New Business

Chairman Lawson stated he did not have any new business to discuss with the Commission members with the exception of the resignation of Commissioner Facchini from the Shellfish Commission.

11. Old Business

- a. Discussion regarding the proposed 2016-2017 Waterford Shellfish budget request.

Chairman Lawson indicated that the budget has been submitted to the proper departments and he will attend the budget hearing for the Commission on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. He will keep the Commission posted on the progress of the budget request but is optimistic there will not be a problem as the Commission is asking for less than half of its operating costs. A discussion was held regarding permit sales and leases of bottom land and the positive impact the income has toward helping the Commission to sustain itself and therefore requiring less money from the Town to operate.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Meehan, seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission.