

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 2, 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 Thomas Malley has been appointed by the First Selectman as a regular member of the Waterford Shellfish Commission and that Len Havens and Chris Calkins are currently alternate members for the Commission. He welcomed the new Commission members and introduced them to the members that have not already met them.

4. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Lawson, Corriveau, Francolino, Miller, Havens and Malley. Absent were Commission members Meehan, LeBelle and Calkins. Alternate Commissioner Havens was appointed as a regular voting member for this meeting in the absence of Commissioner Meehan.

5. Approval of the January 5, 2016 regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Corriveau to approve the January 5, 2015 regular meeting minutes as reviewed and submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, 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 reviewed the appointment notifications for Commissioners Malley, Calkins and Havens as well as an obituary for Captain John Wadsworth who served as a Warden for many years.

8. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Commission with the data he received from the Waterford Finance Department through December 31, 2015. He discussed the revenues, expenditures and bills submitted throughout the month for payment including several for warden hours and for rain gauge reimbursement fees. He stated the bill for the final re-stock of hard shell clams was paid during the month.

Chairman Lawson stated he has ordered nine new status signs to be placed in Pleasure Beach and on Reed Avenue.

Motion made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Havens to approve the Treasurer's Report as reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, 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. During the past month there was one closure and the areas have since re-opened after satisfactory testing was returned. A discussion was held regarding State testing that will require the recreational shell fishing areas to remain open year round.

10. New Business

Chairman Lawson discussed ordering oysters for restock in the recreational shell fishing areas, stating the waters have a natural set of oysters and are supporting growth in the Pleasure Beach area. He explained it takes approximately two years to grow an oyster big enough to harvest.

Chairman Lawson explained the process of restock with the new members and discussed the leasing process of the areas outside of the recreational areas.

Chairman Lawson stated David Burton has been appointed as the new Harbor Master.

11. Old Business

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

Chairman Lawson stated that he has attended all the budget request meetings to date and will continue to attend to answer questions that the boards/agencies may have regarding the FY 2016-2017 request. He stated the Commission is slowly working toward becoming self sufficient through permit sales and leases and is currently asking for less than last year and less than half of the Commission's total operating costs. He stated the Commission is fortunate to have revenue from the permit sales of shell fishing permits to offset the operating costs.

b. Update regarding new member appointments.

Chairman Lawson stated the Commission was appointed Mr. Thomas Malley as a regular voting member and Mr. Len Havens and Mr. Chris Calkins as alternate members of the Commission.

Commissioner Miller discussed scallop harvest this season, stating it was a very successful year with permit sales at an all time high. He explained the river is supporting sea life and there were plenty of scallops available for harvest although the Commission did not restock this year.

Chairman Lawson stated the Annual Shellfish Gathering was postponed due to bad weather and that no one from the Waterford Shellfish Commission was available to attend on the rescheduled date.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Malley to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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