

## Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 1, 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 welcomed Mr. James Markow from Aeros Oyster Company in Noank, CT to the meeting.

4. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Lawson, Corriveau, Francolino, Miller, Malley, Meehan, LeBelle and alternate commissioner Calkins. Alternate Commissioner Havens was absent from the meeting.

5. Approval of the February 2, 2016 regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Corriveau to approve the February 2, 2015 regular meeting minutes as reviewed and submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 8-0, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Public Input

Mr. James Markow of Aeros Oyster Company in Noank, CT was present to discuss a proposal to lease two areas of bottom land in the Waterford waters from the Waterford Shellfish Commission. He explained he has been working with Bloom Brothers to clean up the bottom waters in the Thames River to potentially grow oysters for future harvest. He discussed the ideal conditions for growing oysters and the amount of time it takes to do so. He stated the Waterford Shellfish Commission has control of two areas he is interested in leasing, one east of Smith Cove and the other directly across from the Sub Base near Scotch Cap Road. One area is approximately eighty three acres and the other is approximately thirty five acres of bottom land. Mr. Markow discussed pursuing nitrogen credits from the State from the growth of the oysters not for monetary value but for the recognition of their benefits to the waters.

Chairman Lawson stated he has been out on Mr. Markow's boat to survey the areas that he is interested in leasing and stated the areas were full of silt and not suitable for growing oysters. Mr. Markow stated that he intends to put down layers of shell on the bottom to make the growing areas more suitable for successful growth of a set of oysters. He stated the ideal bottom land to grow oysters has a strong water current and an abundance of sunlight with a clean shell covered ground area.

A discussion was held regarding the lease process and the cost per acre to lease the bottom land.

Commissioner Miller inquired regarding moorings already in place in the proposed leased areas and inquired if they could be a problem and Mr. Markow stated the moorings will not interfere with the oyster growing process in any way.

After a lengthy discussion it was the consensus of the Commission members that there would be no adverse impact to the waters and it could be beneficial to the Commission to move forward with leasing the two areas discussed to Mr. Markow for the purpose of growing and harvesting oysters for commercial use. Commissioner Francolino stated the areas are not currently being utilized and there has been no other interest from anyone to lease the areas until now.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Meehan to authorize Chairman Lawson to move forward with the lease process with the intent to lease both areas to Mr. Markow for commercial growing of oysters and hard shell clams as requested. Discussion; none, voice vote, 8-0, all in favor, motion carried. Chairman Lawson stated he will forward the lease requests to the proper authorities and keep the Commission updated regarding the process.

## 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 discussed the notes he received from the Annual Shellfish meeting held in January and distributed a document titled the Sound School Regional Vocational Aquaculture Center "The Search for Megalops Special Report #1" titled "You do not need to be a scientist to report Important Notice for Blue Crabbers – Estuarine Researchers Timothy C. Visel February 1, 2016 and a document titled "Nantucket, Jamaica Bay and Quahog Culture Habitats 1910-1921 IMEP #28.

Chairman Lawson updated the Commission members regarding a meeting he attended in 2013 regarding Pier 32 in the waters outside of the Sub Base. He discussed the progress to date stating it is still in the permitting stage but all the paperwork has been submitted for the project. He discussed the impact the proposal will have to the bottom land in Waterford waters due to the proposed dredging of the site to permit submarines to dock at the proposed terminal. He stated the proposed dredging is north of the

proposed leased areas and he does not foresee an impact to the proposed oyster growing areas. He discussed the proposal to dredge the area and stated the docks that were recently built for use of the condominium complex along the water in this area are slated to be removed to make way for the Navy to dredge an area large enough to turn a submarine around in the waters where they will eventually be docked.

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 January 31, 2015. He discussed the revenues, expenditures and bills submitted throughout the month for payment. He anticipates there will be early revenue from permit sales if the weather continues to cooperate and there are above average temperatures with minimal closures due to rainfall.

Motion made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to approve the Treasurer's Report as reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 8-0, 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 because of mandated State testing that will require the recreational shell fishing areas to test the waters continuously throughout the year.

10. New Business

A discussion was held regarding the discovery of someone dumping asphalt in the Kiddy Beach area. Chairman Lawson stated he will look into this and contact the Police Department to see if they can determine who is dumping the asphalt along the beach area.

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 fortunate to have revenue from the permit sales of shell fishing permits and leased bottom land to offset the operating costs. He did not have anything new to report regarding the proposed budget request but will keep the Commission updated and pass along any information he receives during the month.

b. Update regarding oyster and little neck clam restock.

Chairman Lawson stated it has been a relatively warm winter and hopes to restock the recreational shell fishing areas as soon as water temperatures reach the required optimal temperature for the hard shell clams.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Malley to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 8-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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