

## Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 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

4. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Lawson, Miller, LeBelle, Malley and Calkins. Absent were Commissioners Francolino, Meehan, Corriveau and Havens.

Alternate Commissioner Calkins was appointed to sit as a regular voting member of this meeting in the absence of Commissioner Meehan.

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

Motion made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to approve the March 1, 2016 regular meeting minutes as reviewed and submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Public Input

There was no one from the public present for discussion at this meeting.

7. Correspondence

Chairman Lawson reviewed various meeting minutes, agendas, emails and correspondence 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 a correspondence from Zofia Baumann, Assistant Research Professor at the UConn Department of Marine Sciences in Groton. She stated the University of

Connecticut has a project that is funded by the Connecticut Sea Grant which relies on hard clams and oysters from several areas along the Connecticut coast and she is requesting permission to dig for hard clam and oysters for field sampling purposes during the first week of May, the first week of June, in mid July and during the first week of September. Commissioner Lawson stated he has given her permission to harvest the samples she is requesting for the research project from the recreational shell fishing areas in the Waterford waters.

8. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino was absent from the meeting and Chairman Lawson reviewed the Treasurer's Report in his absence with the data he received from the Waterford Finance Department through February, 2016. He discussed revenues and expenditures incurred throughout the past month.

Motion made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to approve the Treasurer's Report as reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

9. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated the recreational shell fishing areas are currently closed due to rainfall and have not yet opened due in part to difficulty with taking samples due to high winds and heavy rains. The recreational areas will reopen after the samples are taken to the lab and returned with satisfactory results.

A discussion was held regarding notification of closures and the need for volunteers to change the six status signs at Pleasure Beach and the three at the Reed Avenue location when there is an opening or a closure. These signs are helpful to the public as they indicate whether or not the harvesting of hard shell clams is permitted on any given day. Chairman Lawson stated he has been changing the signs but would like a volunteer to do so if he is not available. He stated the police used to be in charge of signs but they no longer take on this responsibility.

10. New Business

a. Discussion regarding permit fees.

Chairman Lawson stated the recreational shell fishing fees stating the fee structure has been the same for many years without an increase and he feels it is time to review the fee structure. He stated the Commission uses the money generated from permit fees toward restock of the recreational areas to ensure enough product in the waters for everyone who purchases a permit to harvest the clams and oysters. The Commission members reviewed the permit fee structure and after a lengthy discussion unanimously agreed with the following revisions; Seasonal Resident permits will increase five dollars to \$30.00 (thirty dollars), Seasonal Non Resident permits will increase five dollars to \$40.00 (forty dollars), Monthly permits will be eliminated all together as they have proven to not be a popular option, Daily Resident

permits will remain the same at \$8.00 (eight dollars) and Daily Non Resident permits will increase from ten dollars to \$12.00 (twelve dollars), Weekly Resident permits will increase by five dollars to \$15.00 (fifteen dollars), Weekly Non Resident permits will increase by five dollars to \$20.00 (twenty dollars), Residents sixty two and older will increase by three dollars to \$15.00 (fifteen dollars) and Non Residents sixty two and older will remain the same at \$25.00 (twenty five dollars). The age eligibility for the senior permits is now sixty two years of age and the permits will remain a three copy document. Yearly permits are now valid for one year from the date of purchase now that the recreational shell fishing areas remain open year round.

Motion made by Commissioner Calkins, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to approve the changes to the permit fee structure as reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor motion carried. Chairman Lawson indicated he will make the changes to the permits as discussed and request they be printed at the Town Hall so he can then distribute them to the designated permit sales locations.

A discussion was held regarding the revitalization project and replacement of a deck along the waterway in Mago Point.

A revised Shellfish Commission meeting schedule will be posted in the Town Clerk's office and on the Town website with the amended November meeting date of November 1, 2016 as November 8, 2016 is Election Day and therefore the Town Hall will not be available for the meeting.

#### 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 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 throughout the month.

##### b. Update regarding oyster and little neck clam restock.

Chairman Lawson stated he hopes to secure the clams for restock as soon as the waters are warm enough to distribute the clams. A discussion was held regarding the approximate percentage of restock that is lost during distribution due to weather, tides, and seagulls.

#### 12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Malley to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

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Respectfully Submitted by:

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