

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 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

4. Roll Call

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

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

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

Motion made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Calkins to approve the July 5, 2016 regular meeting minutes as reviewed and submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Public Input

Chairman Lawson invited Mr. Timothy Londregan of Niantic Bay Shellfish to speak to the Commission members regarding a project he is working on with the University of Connecticut and local shellfish commissions. Mr. Londregan reviewed the proposal to place six bags of oysters in Waterford waters on the East side of Waterford Island near the sandbar for the purpose of collecting data for a study. He discussed the proposed project and stated the bags will be in the waters for approximately two months after which time the six bags will be retrieved and analyzed. The data collected will be utilized by the University of Connecticut and local shellfish commissions. He stated the bags will be used solely for the

purpose of research and will not be sold or distributed into the waters after the research period is over. It was the consensus of the Commission members that they have no opposition to the proposal as it will not adversely affect the recreational shell fishing in the area where the bags of oysters are distributed.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Corriveau to authorize Mr. Londregan of Niantic Bay Shellfish to work in conjunction with the University of Connecticut research team and place six bags of oysters in the waters on the East side of Waterford Island for the sole purpose of research and to collect data from the bags of oysters placed in the waters after the completed two month period. Discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

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 regular postal mail or email over the course of the past month. He stated he has requested copies of the Wrack Lines magazine published by Sea Grant for the Commission members to review.

Chairman Lawson stated he has received notification from the First Selectman's office that the three shellfish leases have been prepared by the Town Attorney and are ready for signatures from all parties. He stated he will notify the lease holders and ask them to come in to the Town Hall to sign the documents.

Chairman Lawson discussed the email he received and forwarded to the Commission members regarding the latest Megalops Report and discussed the revisions he received by email from WELSCO regarding their revised shellfish regulations.

A discussion was held regarding the age of minors recreationally shell fishing with a licensed permit holder and the pros and cons of having minors get their own permit. Commissioner Miller stated WELSCO allows minors up to the age of sixteen participate in recreational shell fishing with an adult who holds a permit but explained the minor and the permit holder can only collect the two gallon maximum of clams combined.

Chairman Lawson stated that Hillyer's continues to sell recreational shell fishing permits for the Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission.

8. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the latest data he received from the Waterford Finance Department through June 30th. He discussed revenues and expenditures incurred throughout the month and stated permit sales have been consistent due to the dry weather conditions and minimal closures.

Motion made by Commissioner Malloy, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve the Treasurer's Report as reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

9. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated the recreational shell fishing areas are currently open. He stated he will keep the Commission members posted as to the openings and closings of the recreational shell fishing areas throughout the month as he receives them through email.

10. New Business

Chairman Lawson stated he does not have anything to discuss under Old Business this month.

11. Old Business

a. Update regarding oyster and little neck clam restock.

Chairman Lawson stated he ordered forty seven bushels of certified little neck clams for restock and they were delivered last Saturday. He thanked the Commission members that were able to help with the distribution of the clams and for the use of their boats. He explained that forty seven bushels of clams are equal to ninety four count bags or approximately thirteen thousand clams. He stated they did not restock oysters because the conditions of the areas where they would be distributed are rough and he is not sure that they would survive the winter months. It was the consensus of the Commission members that if possible they will try to restock one more time this season.

A discussion was held regarding the proposed construction of a dock area in front of Sunset Ribs and the proposed replacement of the Jordan Cove Bridge.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Calkins, seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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