

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 4, 2015 – 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, Meehan, Francolino, Miller, Corriveau and Facchini. Absent was Commissioner LeBelle.

5. Approval of the July 7, 2015 regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Facchini, seconded by Commissioner Francolino to approve the July 7, 2015 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 between the Waterford/East Lyme Shellfish Commission (WELSCO) the East Lyme Shellfish Commission and the Waterford Shellfish Commission regarding sharing the expense of water and meat sample transportation to Milford. It was the final decision of the Commissions to split the hourly cost for the Warden to sample between the three shellfish Commissions excluding the mileage costs. Chairman Lawson indicated that he is in agreement with splitting the costs in order to cut down on expenses and it was the consensus of the Commission to move forward with the proposal.

Chairman Lawson discussed an article published in The Day newspaper on July 12, 2015 titled “Shellfish Industry Seeks Common Ground with New Panel” written by Stephen Singer. The article discusses the need for common ground between the State and the legislature and is proposing an advisory council to discuss the issue. The key task of this Aquaculture Advisory Council will be to develop a plan to expand the shellfish industry and recommend procedures to make maps available with the names of shellfish bed leaseholders and to review health and safety standards related to the industry. The group will include representatives of the industry, a habitat conservation organization, a marine studies expert and a local official from a shoreline community on Western Long Island where the State’s largest shellfish businesses operate. The Council will consist of thirteen members and will be appointed by the Governor and both Democratic and Republican leaders of the legislature. Chairman Lawson will keep the Commission updated regarding the progress of the Council.

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 June 30, 2015. He discussed the revenues, expenditures and bills submitted throughout the month for payment, including bills from the Warden for patrolling.

Motion made by Commissioner Meehan, seconded by Commissioner Miller 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 indicated the recreational shell fishing areas are currently opened after the return of satisfactory samples. He explained that overall there have been minimal closures this season, allowing for ample recreational shellfishing in Jordan Cove for anyone who has purchased a permit to do so.

10. New Business

Commissioner Miller discussed a grant received by the Town East Lyme for the purpose of replacing the Harbor Master boat that has been in dry dock all season due mostly to steering issues. He explained that Officer David Burton was instrumental in writing the grant and he has also expressed interest in becoming the Harbor Master and has applied for the position. Commission Miller discussed the hiring process and stated he will keep the Commission updated and report back with any progress made.

Chairman Lawson discussed a correspondence he received regarding the possibility of Avery Point taking in meat and water samples in the future. This could possibly save the Commission money for transportation costs if they no longer have to go to Milford. He will keep the Commission updated on the progress of the proposal.

11. Old Business

- a. Update/discussion regarding re-stock/permit sales.

Chairman Lawson stated that he hopes for good weather for restock this month. He will contact the Commission members with proposed dates to distribute clams into the recreational shell fishing area.

Chairman Lawson stated he intends to order oysters to seed in Jordan Cove for future harvest. He indicated the area has been successful producing oysters over the past several years and he hopes to see it continue for the future.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Meehan, seconded by Commissioner Francolino to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 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.