

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 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 7:05 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Welcome Members and Guests

4. Roll Call

Present were Commissioner members Lawson, Malley, Havens, Calkins, and Francolino. Absent were Commissioner members Miller, Corriveau, 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 Miller.

5. Approval of the October 4, 2016 regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Malley to approve the October 4, 2016 regular meeting minutes as reviewed and submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Public Input

Timothy A. Londregan III from Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm, LLC in Niantic, Connecticut was present to speak with the Commission. He started by stating the project he was working on with UConn has concluded but he has not seen results as of yet. Chairman Lawson requested he keep the Commission updated with results as he receives them from the UConn study.

Mr. Londregan discussed a lease proposal with the Commission of two tracts of land totaling 21 acres for the purpose of growing seed products and market shellfish in Jordan Cove and Waterford Island. He explained the Jordan Cove area would be utilized with float gear and the Waterford Island parcel would

require table and bag with some float gear and a few trays. He explained the first parcel totals 11.41 acres (Waterford Island) on the sand bar and the second parcel is located in Jordan Cove north of Jordan Cove Road on the western side and this parcel totals 9.38 acres. He intends to use the Jordan Cove parcel as a nursery site to raise oyster seed being produced in a Stonington hatchery but because of silt issues within the Jordan Cove he will deploy float gear to rear the juvenile oysters. He explained that due to the prohibited classification of the proposed lease area no oysters can be sold for consumption from this site. He explained he intends to use the Waterford Island parcel to raise the oysters and this site will also be utilized to grow nursery seed to a larger side with the benefit of being a conditionally approved area. Due to the secluded nature of this site and the heavy presence of eel grass a variety of gear will be used to grow the oysters including float gear and limited tray use. He is requesting a lease of both of the areas with the option to renew so long as he has adhered to the agreement and keeps the leased areas in good order. He stated that he understands he has a long process ahead of him requesting permits from various agencies but is asking the Commission to give him a letter to allow him to experiment with the probability of using the areas by exploring the areas and planting seed to see if they will take to the waters as he proposes while he is waiting on permits from other agencies. He explained he will require the letter of intent from the Waterford Shellfish Commission before he can approach the other agencies with his proposal.

It was the consensus of the Commission members to allow Mr. Londregan to experiment in the two requested areas as it will have no adverse impact on the recreational shellfishing areas and does not adversely affect Waterford Shellfish Commission business in any way.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Malley to allow Timothy A. Londregan, III of Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm LLC testing on an experimental basis in the areas of Jordan Cove and Waterford Island for the purpose of growing oyster seed and to draft a letter of his intent to lease said areas if approval from all agencies is obtained. Discussion: none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Lawson asked Mr. Londregan to keep the Commission posted on his progress.

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 month. He stated that he forwards all correspondence he receives over the month to the Commission members as he gets them in order to keep them up to date throughout the month and between meetings.

Chairman Lawson discussed an article published in the New London Day newspaper titled "Navy commits \$5.4 million dollars to pier reconstruction project at the Groton sub base. He stated the article

states the Navy has committed 5.4 million dollars for design and planning work to replace Pier 32, one of eleven operational piers at the Naval Submarine Base which is home to fifteen nuclear attack submarines. The plan is to demolish Pier 32 and construct a wider, longer pier in its place. The project is expected to include dredging of the navigation channel in the Thames River.

Chairman Lawson stated he has received notification from the First Selectman's office that the budget meeting for the Waterford Shellfish Commission is scheduled for January 3, 2017.

8. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino discussed the Treasurer's Report with the latest data he received from the Waterford Finance Department through September 30, 2016. He discussed revenues and expenditures incurred throughout the month. A bill was submitted for payment for Wardens hours

Motion made by Commissioner Malloy, seconded by Commissioner Havens 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 over an inch of rainfall. Testing of the recreational areas was done and have been sent to the lab. The recreational shellfishing areas will re-open when satisfactory results are returned.

10. New Business

- a. Discussion/approval of the 2017 monthly meeting dates.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Malley to approve and submit to the Town Clerk the following meeting schedule;

The Waterford Shellfish will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall with the exception of the July and November meetings that are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month as follows;

January 3rd, February 7th, March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 11th, August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 14th and December 5th.

Discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. Discussion/Draft of the 2016 Annual Report.

Motion made by Commissioner Calkins, seconded by Commissioner Havens to submit the following Annual Report from the Waterford Shellfish Commission;

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission
Annual Report –2016 Recreational Shell fishing Season

This season the Waterford Shellfish Commission maintained Areas A, C and G. Recreational shell fishing permits were sold at the Town Hall, Hillyer's Bait and Tackle and Riverside Grocery throughout the recreational shell fishing season. Permits were sold on a daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal rate to adapt to the needs of the public. Permit fees are structured to accommodate senior citizens, residents and non-residents of the Town of Waterford. Permits are available for purchase throughout the year without restrictions and are good for one year from the date of purchase. This year the Waterford Shellfish Commission increased the prices of some of the permits as there has not been an increase in fees in many years. We continue to maintain and oversee two commercial shell fishing leases in the Waterford waters.

This season the Commission purchased and distributed eighty bags of certified littleneck and top neck clams for a total of approximately sixteen thousand clams for re-stock in the recreational shell fishing areas. The Commission will continue to restock during the upcoming season to replenish hard shell clams for those individuals who enjoy recreational shell fishing in the Waterford waters. The Commission did not seed oysters during this season as it now has a natural set of oysters growing in the Pleasure Beach and Millstone Point areas thanks to the Commission's efforts to repopulate and restore oysters to this area. It is a future goal to re-stock the oysters as they become available and the conditions allow. Unfortunately the last set of oysters did not survive the winter months as the areas were exposed to ice but the Commission will continue its efforts to grow and restock them.

The Commission continues to patrol Jordan Cove utilizing the Wardens of WELSCO (Waterford/East Lyme Shellfish Commission) as well as the services of the members of the Waterford Shellfish Commission.

Permit sales were steady during the 2016 season due to very few closures of the recreational shell fish areas because of lack of rain. All samples continue to be delivered to the lab in Milford, CT at the expense of the Commission and waters cannot be re-opened for recreational shell fishing until satisfactory results are returned. The regulations state that after one inch of rainfall the areas are closed until water samples are taken on the fifth day following the rainfall and lab results are received on the eighth day. After two inches of rain the recreational shell fishing areas must close for five days after which time the meat and water samples must be delivered to the lab for testing; this process takes eight to ten days on average.

Future Goals

The Waterford Shellfish Commission will continue to restock certified little neck and top neck clams and will continue to meet and monitor the opening and closing of the recreational shell fishing areas and monitor the growth of the re-stock seeded oysters. The Commission will continue to lease bottom land to commercial harvesters and will remain active in participating in meetings with local and State Shell

fishing Commissions to maintain and enhance the effectiveness of the shell fishing programs throughout the State.

- c. Update regarding the upcoming budget request.

The Commission members discussed the proposed 2017/2016 budget request. It was determined the Commission will request less money this year due to increased revenues from leased bottom land and permit sales. The Commission will further discuss the budget request throughout the month and draft and vote on a budget to submit to the proper agencies at its December meeting.

11. Old Business

- a. Update regarding outstanding lease agreements.

Chairman Lawson stated the Russell lease has yet to be signed and he will look into whether or not they are still interested in leasing the areas.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Malley to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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