

## Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 10, 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

Chairman Lawson introduced Chris Calkins to the Commission members, stating he is a Waterford resident who is interested in becoming a member of the Waterford Shellfish Commission.

4. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Lawson, LeBelle, Corriveau, Francolino. Absent were Commissioners Meehan, Facchini and Miller.

5. Approval of the September 1, 2015 regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to approve the September 1, 2015 meeting minutes as reviewed and submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, 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 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 the requests from the First Selectman's office for the Annual Report from the Commission as well as the budget request and meeting date information.

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 October 31, 2015. He discussed the revenues, expenditures and bills submitted throughout the month for payment, including bills from the Warden for patrolling, clerical and re-stock expenses to date.

Motion made by Commissioner LeBelle, seconded by Commissioner Corriveau to approve the Treasurer's Report as reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

9. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated 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 as there has been minimal rainfall, allowing for lucrative recreational shellfishing in Jordan Cove for those who have purchased permits to do so.

10. New Business

Chairman Lawson stated that he will forward the name of Mr. Calkins to the First Selectman to consider for appointment to the Waterford Shellfish Commission to fill the vacant position.

a. Approval of the 2016 Waterford Shellfish Commission meeting schedule

The Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Waterford Town Hall.

Motion made by Commissioner Corriveau, seconded by Commissioner LeBell to approve and submit to the Town Clerk's office the following 2016 meeting dates for the Waterford Shellfish Commission; January 5<sup>th</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup>, October 4<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Discuss, draft and approve the 2015 Waterford Shellfish Commission Annual Report for submission on or before November 20, 2015 per the First Selectman.

The Commission members drafted and discussed the 2015 Annual Report and agreed to submit the document as follows;

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 between the dates of April 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. The recreational areas are closed during the months of January, February and March. This year the Waterford Shellfish Commission kept the permit prices the same as last year's prices and did not implement any increases. We continue to maintain and oversee two commercial shell fishing leases in the Waterford waters.

This season the Commission purchased and distributed seventy two bags of certified littleneck and top neck clams for a total of approximately fourteen 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.

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. The recreational shell fishing areas are closed during the months of January, February and March and during this time the commercial areas are sampled at the expense of the individuals leasing the areas.

Permit sales increased this year due to very few closures of the recreational shell fish areas because of lack of rain. The recreational areas were open for all of the major holidays with the exception of Memorial Day because the labs were closed and samples could not be processed in time to re-open for the holiday. 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.

Motion made by Commissioner LeBelle, seconded by Commissioner Francolino to approve the Annual Report as discussed and to forward the document to the First Selectman's Office on or before the requested date of November 20, 2015. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

c. Review, draft and discuss the proposed fiscal year 2016-2017 Waterford Shellfish Commission budget request.

The Commission members reviewed the current budget and were able to draft a budget request for the 2016-2017 fiscal year with a decrease of seven hundred and twenty five dollars due to an increase in permit sales during the current fiscal year without cutting back on much needed funds for re-stock and operating expenses. The Commission has continuously kept their budget request at a minimum with the help of permit sales and lease revenue to offset operating and re-stock costs.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to submit the Waterford Shellfish Commission budget request in the amount of \$5,475.00 (five thousand four hundred and seventy five dollars), a decrease of \$725.50 (seven hundred and twenty five dollars and fifty cents) from last years' budget request. Discussion, Commissioner Francolino stated the request is more than ten percent less than last year's request and is approximately half of the funding required to operate the Commission on a yearly basis as it offsets itself with permit sales and lease revenues. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

11. Old Business – none.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Corriveau to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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