

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 1, 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 Len Havens 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, Meehan, Facchini and Corriveau, Absent were Commissioners LeBelle, Francolino and Miller.

5. Approval of the November 10, 2015 regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Corriveau, seconded by Commissioner Meehan to approve the November 10, 2015 regular 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 extended the invitation he received from Tessa Getchis at UConn regarding the 2016 Gathering of the Shellfish Commissions 12th annual meeting on Saturday,

January 23, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Sound School Regional Aquaculture Center in New Haven, CT. He asked that any Commission members that would like to attend let him know as soon as possible so that he can RSVP. Chairman Lawson reviewed an email he received from Richard Chmiel on November 17th regarding Governor Malloy's proposal to remove funding for the Shellfish Laboratory Consultant and how the cuts will impact the local shell fishing industry. Commissioner Meehan distributed copies of the Fall/Winter 2015 Sea Grant Wrack Lines magazine to the Commission members for review.

8. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino was absent from the meeting so Chairman Lawson 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.

Motion made by Commissioner Meehan, 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 open 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. During the month of November the recreational areas were closed on November 20th and re-opened on November 25th. He explained the recreational shellfishing areas will close during the months of January, February and March and re-open tentatively on April 1, 2016 if testing of the meat and water samples are satisfactory.

10. New Business

a. Discussion regarding the closure of the 2015 recreational shellfishing season and goals for the 2016 season.

Chairman Lawson stated the Commission will continue to re-stock the recreational areas during the upcoming season as weather conditions allow. He stated this year was a lucrative year for permit sales resulting in the Commission having to ask for less funding for operating costs in the upcoming year. The Commission gains revenue from permit sales and through leases with shellfish harvesters. Because of the income from both permit sales and lease revenues the Commission covers over half of its operating costs for the year, resulting in less of a financial burden on the Town. It is the hope that one day through permit sales and leased bottom land that the Commission will be completely self sufficient.

Chairman Lawson stated that he will forward the names of Mr. Chris Calkins and Mr. Len Havens to the First Selectman to consider for appointment to the Waterford Shellfish Commission to fill the vacancies. He encouraged both Mr. Calkins and Mr. Havens to write letters to the First Selectman if they are interested in serving on the Waterford Shellfish Commission.

11. Old Business

- a. Discussion regarding the proposed 2016-2017 Waterford Shellfish budget request.

Chairman Lawson indicated that the budget has been submitted to the proper departments and to date he has not received dates for budget hearings. He will keep the Commission posted on the progress of the budget request.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Meehan, seconded by Commissioner Corriveau to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 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.