

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 6, 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 Commissioner Members Lawson, Malley, Havens, Calkins, Meehan, LeBelle, Miller and Francolino. Absent was Commissioner Member Corriveau.

Alternate Commissioner Havens was appointed to sit as a regular voting member in the absence of Commissioner Corriveau.

5. Approval of the November 1, 2016 regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Meehan to approve the November 1, 2016 regular meeting minutes as reviewed and submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Public Input

There was no one present from the public to speak with the Commission.

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 the Annual Gathering of the Shellfish Commissions meeting scheduled for January 21st and suggested if any of the Commission members are interested in attending the meeting to let him know by January 12th so that he can register them. The gathering starts at 9:00 a.m.

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 and he plans to attend the meeting to answer questions from the Board.

A discussion was held regarding the scallop season that is underway in the Niantic River. Chairman Lawson stated he has received reports of a good harvest in spite of the windy conditions that started the season. He stated the scallop season will continue until the end of January and permits are required to harvest the scallops.

8. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino discussed the Treasurer's Report with the latest data he received from the Waterford Finance Department through November 30, 2016. He discussed revenues and expenditures incurred throughout the month.

Motion made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle 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 closed due to over an inch of rainfall. Testing of the recreational areas must be collected and sent to the lab. The recreational shell fishing areas will re-open when satisfactory results are returned.

10. New Business

Chairman Lawson discussed the possibility of seeding, growing and harvesting oysters in the upcoming seasons and discussed ideas for doing so and the best spots to have healthy successful harvests.

11. Old Business

a. Discussion/approval of the 2017/2018 Waterford Shellfish budget request.

The Commission members discussed the proposed 2017/2016 budget request line item by line item and were able to reduce the request by five hundred thirty eight dollars due to the increase in lease revenues this year.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Meehan to submit the budget request to the proper authorities for consideration in the amount of \$4,437.00 (four thousand four hundred thirty seven dollars), a five hundred and thirty eight dollar reduction over the last fiscal year request and approximately half of the Commission's operating costs for the year. The Commission is in a position to request less than its full operating costs because it generates revenue from recreational shell fishing permits and from leasing bottom land to commercial harvesters. Discussion; none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Lawson stated he will attend the budget meeting as requested and discuss the outcome of budget meeting with the Commission members at the January meeting.

b. Discussion/approval of the 2016 Annual Report

The Commission members reviewed and drafted the 2016 Annual Report at the November meeting. There being no additional information to add or discuss a motion was made by Commissioner LeBelle, seconded by Commissioner Havens to approve the 2016 Annual Report and to submit it to the proper authorities. Discussion, none, voice vote, 7-0, all in favor, motion carried.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Malley 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.