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Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Shirley L. Conroy
TOWN CLERK

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 5, 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 Commissioners Lawson, LeBelle, Miller, Malley, Corriveau, Meehan and Calkins. Absent were Commissioners Francolino and Havens.

Alternate Commissioner Calkins was appointed to sit as a regular voting member of this meeting in the absence of Commissioner Francolino.

5. Approval of the June 7, 2016 regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Malley, seconded by Commissioner Calkins to approve the June 7, 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 from the public present for discussion at this meeting.

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 past month. He discussed a document sent to the Commission

from Connecticut Energy and Environmental Protection regarding dock regulations and general permitting.

Commissioner Meehan distributed copies of the Wrack Lines magazine published by Sea Grant for the Commission members to review.

8. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino was absent from the meeting and in his absence Chairman Lawson reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the latest data he received from the Waterford Finance Department for the past months. He discussed revenues and expenditures incurred throughout the month and stated permit sales have been consistent due to the dry weather conditions.

Motion made by Commissioner Meehan, seconded by Commissioner Miller 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 open and they did not have to close for the small amount of rain that fell over the past week because it did not measure over an inch. He stated he will keep the Commission members posted as to the openings and closings of the recreational shellfishing areas throughout the month as he receives them through email.

10. New Business

Chairman Lawson stated that the funding requested for FY 2016-2017 Waterford Shellfish budget was deposited into the Commission's account as of July 1st.

11. Old Business

a. Update regarding oyster and little neck clam restock.

Chairman Lawson stated he is ready to order clams and oysters for re-stock now that the waters are warm enough and the boats are in the water. The Commission members discussed dates that they are available to distribute the re-stock and it was the consensus of the Commission members who can help out with their time and boats that Saturday July 16th would be the best day for a delivery of clams with a rain date of Saturday, August 20th. Chairman Lawson stated that once the clams have been put in the water the Commission will close the recreational areas for twenty four hours to allow the clams to bury themselves into the bottom. Commissioner Meehan suggested letting the Warden's know of the intent to re-stock and the twenty four hour closure so that they can put extra patrol on during the closure and to check for permits after the area re-opens. A discussion was held regarding the need to be proactive with checking

for permits and harvest limits to ensure there are plenty of clams for people who purchase permits throughout the year because permit sales fund the re-stock of the hard shell clams.

Commissioner Meehan suggested the Commission try to re-stock again in September before the waters get too cold to do so. She stated the weather is perfect to do so in September and it would be nice to have re-stock in the waters for the winter months.

b. Update regarding the new and extended lease agreement.

Chairman Lawson stated the Town Attorney has drafted the four lease agreements and the advertisements for the lease proposals have run their course in the New London Day on two separate days to inform the public of the Commission's intentions and to give anyone who is opposed to the leases and opportunity to come forward. There was no opposition to the proposed leases and the Board of Selectman unanimously approved the proposed leases at their last meeting. Chairman Lawson stated the Waterford Shellfish Commission contributed two hundred dollars toward the advertising costs and the owners of the leases paid for the balance of the cost. He stated once signatures are obtained from all parties the leases will be valid for the length of time stated on each individual lease.

Chairman Lawson discussed the proposal for Pier 32 with the Commission and stated the proposal will not have an impact of the shellfish beds or leased areas under the control of the Waterford Shellfish Commission.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Calkins, seconded by Commissioner Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 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.

