1. Call to Order

Chairman Lawson called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Lawson, Francolino, Havens, Malley, Drennen, Calkins and LeBelle. Absent was Commissioner Malley.

4. Approval of the October 1, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to approve the October 1, 2019 regular meeting minutes as reviewed and filed. Discussion; none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Correspondence

Chairman Lawson reviewed various correspondences he received over the past month including agendas and minutes from Town Commissions and Agencies as well as notices of openings and closings of the Town of Waterford recreational shell fishing areas. He explained he has been forwarding all emails he receives during the course of the month to all of the Commission members to keep them up to date regarding relevant topics relating to the Waterford Shellfish Commission between regular meetings.

Discussions were held regarding the proposal for a lease (Bay Point Lease) in Waterford waters and all correspondence received regarding the lease over the past month.

Chairman Lawson updated the Commission regarding the most recent Watershed Commission meeting he attended.

Discussions were held regarding a correspondence from the State Department of Energy and the Commission discussed ongoing water testing in Jordan Cove.
6. Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Francolino reviewed the Treasurer’s Report with the Commission through November, 2019. He reviewed the expenditures and revenues on the Financial Report generated by the Finance Office at the Town Hall. Chairman Lawson stated he submitted bills for Warden’s hours and clerical support and that the revenues for this month include the revenue from the sale of shell fishing permits he collected from Hillyer’s Bait and Tackle.

Motion made by Commissioner Havens, seconded by Commissioner Calkins to approve the Treasurer’s Report as discussed. Discussion; none, voice vote; 6-0, all in favor and the motion carried.

7. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated the recreational shell fishing areas are currently open. A discussion was held regarding the openings and closures throughout the month of October. Chairman Lawson discussed the need for better communication from the Department of Aquaculture regarding openings and closings. A discussion was held regarding taking the notification sign down before winter weather arrives and Chairman Lawson suggested the Commission order a sign that depicts the areas are closed during the months of January, February and March.

8. New Business

a. Review and approve the 2020 Waterford Shellfish Commission meeting dates

Motion made by Commissioner LeBelle, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to approve the following dates for the 2020 Waterford Shellfish Commission meeting dates and to forward the approved dates to the Town Clerk’s office as requested;

January 7th, February 4th, March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, September 1st, October 6th, November 10th and December 1st.

Discussion; none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Discussion and approval of the 2019 Waterford Shellfish Commission Annual Report

Motion made by Commissioner Havens, seconded by Commissioner Francolino to approve the 2019 Waterford Shellfish Commission Annual Report as follows;

This season the Waterford Shellfish Commission maintained Areas A and G in Jordan Cover and Area C on the East side of Waterford Island also known as Bay Point. 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, 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 April 1st through December 31st of each season without restrictions and are good valid for the season and duration of time in which they are purchased. The Waterford Shellfish Commission opted to keep the prices of recreational shell fishing permits the same as last year for this season. Over this past year the Commission was able to maintain leased areas of Waterford bottomland and is currently working on an additional area for commercial use to continue generating income for the Commission. The Commission continues to maintain and oversee three commercial shell fishing leases in the Waterford waters.

This season the Commission was unable to obtain certified little neck clams for distribution due to a State wide shortage. Chairman Lawson spoke with several suppliers over the course of the season and was not able to secure any product for the Commission. Although the Commission was not able to restock this season it is their hope to continue to restock during the upcoming season to replenish hard shell clams for those individuals who enjoy recreational shell fishing in the Waterford waters as soon as conditions are suitable to do so.

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. State regulations dictate that after one inch of rainfall the recreational shell fishing 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.

During the 2019 season there were a total of seventy three permits sold generating one thousand six hundred and eleven dollars of revenue for the Waterford Shellfish Commission. Additional revenue was also collected in the amount of one thousand four hundred and sixteen dollars in annual lease fees. The revenue from permit sales and lease fees helps to offset operating costs of the Waterford Shellfish Commission. It is the hope of the Waterford Shellfish Commission that in the future they will generate enough income from permit sales and leased areas that the Commission will not require funding from the Town of Waterford for operating costs.

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 in the upcoming year. 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 of Connecticut.

Discussion; none, voice vote, 6-0, motion carried.

9. Old Business

a. Discussion regarding securing restock of certified little neck clams for distribution into the recreational shell fishing areas

Chairman Lawson stated his attempt to secure little neck clams for the 2019 season was unsuccessful due to a shortage. It is the hope of the Commission that there will have the capability to secure and distribute product in the upcoming 2020 season.

10. Public Input regarding Waterford Shellfish Commission Business

There was no one present from the public to address the Commission at this meeting.

11. Adjournment

There being nothing further to discuss there was a motion made by Commissioner Havens, seconded by Commissioner Francolino to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:05 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Please note that the next regularly scheduled Waterford Shellfish Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the Waterford Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer,

Recording Secretary for the Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission