



## Waterford/East Lyme Shellfish Commission Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 20, 2014 Waterford Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Members present: Peter Harris, Eric Kanter, Paul Spakowski, Larry Tytla, Tom Bowlen, J. Patrick Kelly and Rich Miller

Absent/Excused: Fred Grimsey

Guests: Chief Warden Richard Chmiel, Lou Bull of Hillyers B&T, George Calkins of LLH, Roger Sherman and Neil Brown of Groton Shellfish Commission, Ed Martin and Don Murphy of Stonington Shellfish Commission, Steve Plant and Jim Markow of Noank Aquaculture, Joyce Meehan of Waterford Shellfish Commission, Steve Dinsmore and Don Landers of East Lyme HM/SC.

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm after a quorum established. The Chairman Peter Harris modified the agenda to take two priority items first because of the quest who were present. The Dock Application and then coordination of water samples.
- 2) Gary Smith made a presentation on the Peppermint Ridge, LLC 1 First St. Waterford Dock Application. After the presentation and multiple questions from Commissions that were answer by Mr. Smith.
  - A Motion was made to table the Dock application to a later time to expedite the water sample discussion by J. Patrick Kelly and Second by Rich Miller. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3) The Chairman then open discussions on coordination of water samples. George Calkins reported on what assistance Ledge Light Health (LLH) can provide by taking water samples only to the State Health Lab (SHL) in Hartford that will accept them under a MOU with DA/BA. LLH couriers sample to SHL between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Several of the Commissioners and Noank Aqualculture staff questioned the reason that Shannon Kelly can no longer courier samples to Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture (DA/BA) since it was working so well; plus she is driving there most days. Most of those present questioned the leadership of Director David Carey and whether he was trying to force Shannon Kelly to resign.

There was a question from the group that DA/BA Lab has now added a Lab Technician and Shannon is now doing office work and not in the field as an Environmental Analyst like her peers at the Bureau.

There were several questions about alternatives methods to get samples to DA/BA Lab or SHL with local Town/s support, use of UPS or Federal Express, other State Agency or Department couriers, volunteers, etc.

There was more discussion about Director David Carey's lack of leadership, nonexistence communications with Shellfish Commissions, absence of organization skills, and his inability to accept constructive criticism. The consensus of group was that David Carey was the main core problem and we should setup a joint meeting of Shellfish Commissions, Local Officials, and State Senators & Representatives. Peter Harris offered to setup such a meeting at WELSCO's March 20<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm meeting at East Lyme Town Hall. It was unanimous by consensus that all will attend and email Peter their State Officials contact information. Commissions will invite their Primary local Town officials to the joint meeting.

The regular agenda was resumed.

- 4) The minutes of January 16, 2014 were reviewed and accepted on a motion by Rich Miller and seconded by Larry Tytla; motion passed unanimously.
- 5) The Treasurer's report was accepted, after correction of total Assets on the Balance Sheet that should have reflected \$62,136.74 a motion was made by Rich Miller, seconded by Paul Spakowski; motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Chief Warden's Comments-
  - Chief Chmiel comment on the ice buildup in the Warden Boat and the problem of removing it.
  - He reported that Shane had taken the last water samples to Westbook Troop F
     State Police Barracks to meet a DA/BA courier.
  - He reported that there a numerous scallop shells along the docks and beach from seagulls; some of which are adult size. There is some speculation that scallops are returning to the river from Niantic Bay.
- 5) Subcommittee Reports None
- 6) Old Business None

7) J. Patrick Kelly made a motion to take 1 First St. Waterford Dock Application off the table and to approve the Dock application because it will not adversely affect shellfish with a statement that there should be a sewage vacuum pump-out station at this or another Waterford marina; motion was seconded by Rick Kanter. The motion was approved with Larry Tytla obstaining.

## 8) New Business-

- There was discussion about having some stock wording on Dock Applications to limit the number of new boats in the Niantic River. There was discussion of the sewage pump-out station and pump-out boat. The question of does a new dock have any legal limitations on the number of boats under State Law. It was decided that no wording would be added.
- A motion was made by Larry Tytla and seconded by Rick Kanter to appoint Richard Chmiel as Chief Warden for an additional term of one year. The motion passed unanimously.
- 9) Correspondence None
- 9) Public Input None at end of meeting
- 10) Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm on a motion by P. Spakowski.

Respectfully submitted,

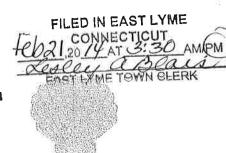
J. Patrick Kelly

Pro-Tempore Secretary

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