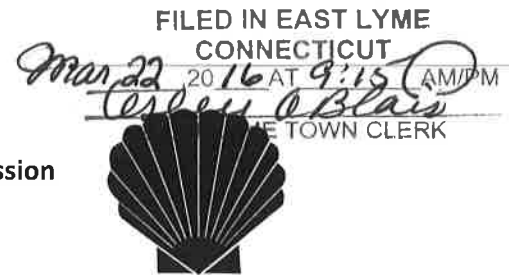




**Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 17, 2016  
East Lyme Town Hall, 7:30 pm



Members present: Peter Harris, Larry Tytla, Tom Bowlen, Paul Spakowski and Eric Kanter

Absent: J. Patrick Kelly, Rich Miller and Fred Grimsey

Guests: Chief Warden Rich Chmiel, Keith Nielson of Docko Inc., Bill Scheer Deputy Director of Public Works- East Lyme, Dan Cunningham, Ex-Officio-East Lyme, Deb Surabian, Soil Scientist with USDA, and Timothy Londregan of Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm after a quorum established.
- 2) The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and accepted on a motion by P. Spakowski, seconded by L. Tytla; all in favor; motion passed.
- 3) Treasurer's report was reviewed including the financials and the February checking account bank reconciliation; including any checks disbursed, on a motion by P. Spakowski, seconded by L. Tytla; all in favor; motion passed.
- 4) Chief Warden's Report- submitted by P. Harris
  - The shellfish areas are currently closed for clamming due to rains.
  - Samples will be taken next week.
  - There are a fair amount of scallops being found and pockets of eelgrass on the flats.
  - Chief will inquire at the Town of East Lyme Garage for metal posts needed for signage.
  - Currently using Niantic Bay Boat Valet to purchase fuel and oil for the warden's boat.
- 5) Subcommittee Reports –
  - Camp Niantic has posted signage stating "Stay below mean high tide" at the camp.
- 6) Old Business-
  - a) Review of By-laws tabled to the next meeting.
  - b) Keith Neilson of Docko Inc. reviewed the revised Grand St New Staging/Transient Dock proposal. Motion made by P. Spakowski, seconded by T. Bowlen, to approve the application as there are no adverse effects on shellfishing; all in favor, motion passed.
  - c) P. Harris will be the official representative for Welsco on the Niantic River Watershed Committee and E. Kanter will be the alternate.
- 7) New Business-
  - a) P. Harris made a motion to re appoint Chief Warden Rich Chmiel for another term, seconded by E. Kanter all in favor, motion passed. P. Harris thanked him for all his hard work and dedication.
  - b) T. Londregan, Owner of Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm reviewed his revised proposal for creating a sustainable shellfishery for public benefit with WELSCO. He highlighted the overall program outlines to include bay scallops and oysters. There was much discussion on the benefits and cost. T. Londregan agreed to review his current proposal and bring other options to a future meeting.
  - c) Deb Surabian, State Soil Scientist with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service reviewed the initiative for taking core soil samples. Core samples will be done in the Niantic River, Niantic Bay and Jordan Cove this spring and take approximately a week to complete. All data collected will be posted on the websoilsurvey site. She asked for any volunteers to contact her. She reviewed findings from soil core samples taken at URI and the information gained from this process.

8) Correspondence –

- a) Dave at NOAA will meet with WELSCO to discuss scallop lifestyles before the next planned WELSCO meeting. P Harris will email all commission members once a time is confirmed.
- b) E. Kanter brought copies of the FOI Training minutes. A. Tinker will forward copies to all members.
- c) Chief Chmiel is coordinating a meeting with the DA/BA regarding sampling optimization.

9) Public Input –

- a) D. Cunningham, Ex-Officio commended WELSCO members for their hard work; he is concerned about increased nitrogen levels and runoff. P. Harris noted the Niantic River Watershed committee has been looking into these issues.

10) The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm on a motion by T. Bowlen.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Tinker  
Secretary