



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Waterford Town Hall, 7:30 pm



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

Absent: Eric Kanter and Fred Grimsey

Guests: Dan Cunningham, Lou Bull, Tim Londregan, Mark Harrell and Guy Rocamora

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm after a quorum established.
- 2) The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed and accepted on a motion by P. Kelly, seconded by R. Miller, all in favor; motion passed.
- 3) Treasurer's report was reviewed including the financials on a motion by R. Miller, seconded by P. Spakowski; all in favor; motion passed. Hillyer's Bait and Tackle has already sold scallop permits. P. Kelly noted a loss will show in next the quarter due to the cost of Annual CPA audit, Scallop Season advertising and a decrease in permit income.
- 4) Chief Warden's Report-
 - Opening samples for November were done; all came back good
 - Area A is open, but too many boats in Area B to open; will continue periodic marina checks
 - The steering cable was replaced and boat is running great
 - The Warden is not seeing many scallops in the river after a recent search
 - Warden's new boat trailer is working out well; recently fully flushed after use
- 5) Old Business-
 - a) T. Londregan of NBSF presented his final proposal for his experimental project. Motion made by P. Spakowski, to approve an experimental lease to Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm in area 7; seconded by L. Tytla, all in favor, motion passed. The commission requested a progress report in approximately 9 months. T. Londregan will be attending most meetings and keep the commission up to date.
 - b) The Scallop permit redesign was reviewed with its final changes. P. Harris contacted all outlets asking that they remind purchasers that Scallop Permits are purchased at your own risk and there are no refunds.
- 6) New Business-
 - a) The proposed 2017-2018 Budget was reviewed. P. Kelly noted Waterford Warden reimbursement income is lower. Shellfish Patrolling is required even if the areas are closed.
 - b) The 2017 Annual Shellfish Gathering will be held on January 21, 2017; more info to follow.
 - c) P. Kelly noted problems with the info-line at dispatch not having correct information. He will contact Steve Mansfield with regard to protocol.
 - d) Areas B and F still remain closed, too many boats in the water that are not winterized. Once there are 10 boats or less the DA/BA should give permission to open.

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NOV 21 2016 AT 4:00 AM
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e) According to M. Harrell of Aeros Oyster they can provide 25 bags of mixed seed. P. Harris will contact owner J. Markow about the purchase.

7) Sub-committee –

a) The commission reviewed the final changes to the 2002 Aquaculture Policy. Motion made by P. Kelly to approve the revision's to the current Aquaculture Policy, seconded by P. Spakowski; all in favor, motion passed.

8) Correspondence –

a) The State of CT website has the updated the jurisdictional rules for local shellfish commissions and bait harvesting regulations. Some concerns discussed will be brought up at the Annual Shellfish Gathering.

9) Ex Officio Comments –

The State of CT budget concerns will have a trickle down effect at the Town levels; including grant funding according to D. Cunningham, Ex-Officio.

10) Public Input –

a) M. Harrell of Aeros Oyster Company noted the oysters planted are doing very well. He offered to help with seed stock placement.

b) Guy Rocamora of Elizabeth St. Niantic reviewed his plan for a dock extension on his property located in Saunders Point. He asked to be on the commissions December Agenda.

c) Lou Bull had an idea of closing and opening alternate areas in the river; which would give the closed area time to recover and restock. There was further discussion on the idea. P. Kelly will contact the DA/BA on this idea.

11) The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm on a motion by P. Spakowski.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Tinker
Secretary