

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
May 22, 2017 AT 1:45 AM/PM
Besley Blair
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 18, 2017

East Lyme Town Hall, 7:30 pm



Members present: Peter Harris, Eric Kanter, Fred Grimsey, Larry Tytla, Paul Spakowski and Rich Miller

Absent: J. Patrick Kelly and Tom Bowlen

Guests: Chief Rich Chmiel, Lou Bull of Hillyer's Tackle and Robert Dutton of 64 Niantic River Rd

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm after a quorum established.
- 2) The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed. The minutes were accepted on a motion by P. Spakowski, seconded by E. Kanter; one abstain; motion passed.
- 3) The Treasurer's report for April was reviewed including the financials and bank reconciliation. The Treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by L. Tytla, seconded by P. Spakowski; all in favor; motion passed.
- 4) Chief Warden's Report-
 - The shellfishing areas are currently open.
 - The boat had an oil change done.
 - Clam seed will be distributed as soon as it is available.
 - A new place to store the Warden's boat trailer was discussed; one possibility is at Mago Point Marina's south side fenced area with a cost of \$250.00 annually; no decision was made.
 - Group transportation of sampling was discussed. WELSCO Wardens only transport WELSCO samples to DA/BA. There was further discussion on the cost.
 - Warden Bridgman received notice on a possible position with Electric Boat. He may stay on as Warden if the new position allows for the hours and time needed by WELSCO as warden. Chief Chmiel will keep the commission updated.
- 5) Old Business-
 - a) On Monday May 22nd P. Harris and R. Chmiel will attend the meeting with DA/BA to discuss current sampling stations/regulations.
- 6) New Business-
 - a) There was discussion on the use of oysters to improve water quality. The Niantic River Watershed Committee is working on a plan to spread the oysters. P. Harris noted T. Londregan of Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm is interested in working on this project and he has spat available.
 - b) The transfer of phone message to LLHD management was tabled to the June meeting.
 - c) Financial compensation for water/meat sample transport to DA/BA was discussed.
- 7) Correspondence
 - a) P. Harris received employment verification from EB for S. Bridgman.
- 8) Ex Officio Comments
 - a) D. Cunningham noted the importance of the public having access to the water and no parking signs making water access difficult.

9) Public Input

- a) R. Dutton expressed his frustration on the inability to clam by his house as the area is continually closed. The Dept. of Agriculture DA/BA oversees the clamming zones and decides if areas can be open for shellfishing. Their decision to close areas is based on factors to include the number of boats with heads remaining in the water and their proximity to shellfishing areas. Commissioners suggested that R. Dutton write a letter to the DA/BA.
- b) L. Bull stated back in the 80's about 10 K of seed was spread throughout the River up to Sandy Point with Oyster seed received from J. Markow of Aeros Oyster Co.; he recalled having oysters for many years. He noted cleaned oyster shells can be used for harvesting.

10) The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm on a motion by P. Spakowski.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Tinker
Secretary
