

**EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT & SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2018
7:30 PM
EAST LYME TOWN HALL**

Chairman
Stephen Dinsmore

Treasurer
Donald F. Landers Jr.

Secretary
Joseph Hitchery

Members Present: Steve Dinsmore, Joe Hitchery, Don Landers, Bill Mountzoures, Don MacKenzie

Members Absent: Greg Murin, Rick Kanter

Ex Officio Present: Selectman Paul Dagle, Harbor Master Dick Morris

Call to Order: S. Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 16, 2018

Motion: (Landers/Mountzoures) to approve the minutes as presented:

Vote: Approved unanimously

Public Delegations

Peter Harris (WELSCO) expressed his hope that the Commission would recommend East Lyme area(s) in the Niantic River for experimental aquaculture.

REPORTS

A. Shellfish

The Niantic River is closed for shell fishing due to the recent rain.

B. Harbor Master

D. Morris reported he received many payments for moorings in the past week. He is trying to determine which moorings are not being used. He stated there were approximately 4-5 people on the wait list for Giants Neck area.

C. Treasurer

D. Landers received two invoices from WELSCO for \$31.25 and \$25.00 for services provided (water testing and warden patrol).

D. Ex-Officio

P. Dagle updated the Commission on the Town budget proceedings.

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Feb 26, 2018 AT 11:30 AM/PM
Brooke D. Howard ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

OLD BUSINESS

Harbor Management Plan-Update

New Commissioner D. MacKenzie has read approximately half of the Plan and has some concerns and questions. The Chairman told him he could contact consultant Geoff Steadman directly.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Suitable Areas for Aquaculture in the Niantic River

A 2002 WELSCO map was presented of the Niantic River with the following areas identified for possible aquaculture:

- Area #1: near Camp Niantic (East Lyme)
- Area #2: along bar near RT 156 west of the kayak launch float (East Lyme)
- Area #3: Circle northeast of the original proposed area (Waterford)
- Area #4: Off Avenues 2 through 7 (Waterford)
- Area #5: Near Benvenuti's north of Avenue 9 (Waterford)
- Area #6: Off Oswegatchie Hills across from Comfort Point (East Lyme)

P. Harris stated the WELSCO plan would have to be revised but they are looking for areas that could be used for experimental aquaculture.

Chairman Dinsmore relayed for the record Commissioner Murin's opinion that the Niantic River was not suitable for aquaculture.

D. Landers suggested the possibility of using the upper Niantic River during the winter months, moving down to the lower river and then out in the bay during summer months, and then reverse the process in the fall. The upper river has less recreational activity that lends itself to aquaculture. Commissioners agreed it would be a good idea to go out on the Niantic River in the next few weeks to look at the proposed areas.

P. Harris stated that the purpose of the request is that in the future all three commissions (WELSCO, ELHM/SC and Waterford HMSC) will meet with Waterford Town Attorney to consider the areas recommended as being most suitable for aquaculture. He stated it would be good for the Chairman to come to the joint meeting with an area(s) that the Commission agrees on.

P. Harris stated that their attorney has drafted a WELSCO application form for possible aquaculture. Once filled out the Town Clerk would certify and terms of any lease agreement would come after submittal of the application.

P. Dagle reminded the Commissioners that if they do not choose an area in the River then WELSCO will.

MOTION: (Landers/Hitchery) to have the Chairman represent the East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission at the meeting involving WELSCO, ELHMSC and Waterford Harbor Management and Shellfish Commission regarding suitable areas of the Niantic River for aquaculture providing no action is taken identifying a particular location without approval of the East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

B. Correspondence none

FINAL COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Landers /Mountzoures) to adjourn at 8:38 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Sue Spang
Recording Secretary