

**Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission**Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 15, 2018
Waterford Town Hall, 7:30 pm



Members present: Peter Harris, Tom Bowlen, Paul Spakowski, J. Patrick Kelly and Elizabeth Gelinas

Absent: Fred Grimsey, Eric Kanter and Larry Tytla

Guests: Chief Warden Rich Chmiel and Attorney Robert Avena

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and a quorum established.
- 2) The minutes of the January 18, 2018 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were accepted on a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Spakowski, Mr. Bowlen abstained, vote 4 to 1, motion passed.
- 3) The Treasurer's report for January was presented including the financials and bank reconciliation. The Treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Ms. Gelinas, Mr. Bowlen abstained, vote 4 to 1, motion passed.
- 4) Chief Warden's Report-
 - All shellfishing areas are currently closed.
 - Monthly samples are behind due to inclement weather and the state lab's inability to accommodate. Chief notified Alyssa Dragan at DA/BA of the issues. Chief will attempt samples Monday, weather pending.
 - Jordan Cove areas A and D closed January through March.
 - Nothing to report on boat maintenance or storage.

5) Old Business-

- a) Mr. Harris and Attorney Avena are continuing work on the draft of revisions to the WELSCO 2002 Aquaculture policy.
- b) Attorney Avena reviewed the Application to Conduct Aquaculture document intended to be used as a tool in acquiring information from an applicant for future aquaculture projects. Attorney Avena reviewed the criteria: a projects technical information, objectives, detailed explanation of the project and any structures and equipment if applicable. Attorney Avena noted there will be a Town's certification required. Attorney Avena stated the application would follow a review process by WELSCO and either East Lyme or Waterford Harbor Management Commission's would also review and comment on any applications within their jurisdictions. A final contract would be drawn up stating liability, bonding insurance, pertinent information and parties obligations after an applicant's project is approved. Motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Spakowski to approve the Application to Conduct Aquaculture document, all in favor, motion passed unanimously.
- c) Mr. Kenney of 8 Elizabeth Street, Niantic reviewed his dock application for a private residential dock located near the Smith Cove entrance. After further discussion a motion was made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Bowlen to approve the application as there are no adverse effects on shellfishing; Mr. Spakowski opposed, vote 4 to 1, motion passed.

FILED

Feb 20 2018 AT 8:00 AM/PM

Robert Avena

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

- d) Attorney Avena attended the DEEP mediation hearing on February 1, 2018; he is coordinating a meeting with the Chair's of both Waterford and East Lyme Harbor Management Commissions and WELSCO (possibly Town planners) to review aspects with jurisdiction, legality and ensure everyone is on the same page. He will report to DEEP once the meeting's been held. The next mediation hearing will be May 1st 2018.

6) New Business-

- a) Keith Neilson of Docko Inc. reviewed the dock application for Mr. Lyons of 11 Keeney Ct, Waterford stating there were ledge concerns; the tidal wetlands have been mapped; area prone to ice buildup. The dock is a standard configuration and chains will be installed to keep boat off the bottom and to hoist during the winter. After further discussion a motion was made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Gelinas to approve the dock application as there are no adverse effects on shellfishing, Mr. Spakowski abstained, vote 4 to 1, motion passed.
- b) Motion to re-appoint Richard Chmiel as Chief Warden, made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Gelinas, all in favor, motion passed unanimously. Mr. Harris thanked the Chief for all his hard work and dedication.

7) Correspondence-

- a) Two handouts were available for the public: The benefits of clamming and oysters and Oxygen deprivation.
- b) WELSCO received notice that the federal government may defund the SeaGrant program. This would be detrimental to commercial and residential shellfishing. SeaGrant provides education to Avery Point for marine biologist, sanitarians, and is involved in Project Oceanology educating school children.
- c) A social media post by the Niantic River Advocacy Coalition stated WELSCO did not file an Agenda in the required timeframe for the meeting. Mr. Harris asked that they post factual information; the Agenda was filed timely with the Town Clerk's in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.

8) Ex Officio Comments- none

9) Public Input- none

10) The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Bowlen.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Tinker
Secretary