

**EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT & SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES
MARCH 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, Greg Murin, Rick Kanter

Members Absent: Bill Mountzoures, Don MacKenzie

Ex Officio present: Paul Dagle

Ex Officio Absent: Harbor Master Dick Morris

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 20, 2018

Motion: (Kanter/Hitchery) to approve the February 20, 2018 minutes as amended:

Page 2, section A, Paragraph 3: Chairman Dinsmore relayed for the record Commissioner Murin's opinion that the Niantic River was not suitable for *Category II* aquaculture.

Vote: Approved. (Kanter abstained)

3. Public Delegations

Peter Harris (WELSCO) submitted for the Commission's consideration a pamphlet/ad from Sea Grant regarding environmental management practices pertaining to fertilizing lawns for property owners along and near the Niantic River.

4. Reports

A. Shellfish

The Niantic River is open for shell fishing.

B. Harbor Master

Harbor Master not present.

C. Treasurer

D. Landers distributed a copy of the proposed full-page pamphlet/ad submitted by Harris and stated the cost to publish it in the Day newspaper would be shared by Waterford Harbor Management, WELSCO, Niantic River Watershed Commission, and East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission. If the Commission decides to participate the Commission's share would be \$250.

FILED

Mar 20 2018 AT 10:10 AM/PM
(Signature)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

MOTION: (Kanter/Murin) to approve \$250 for the ad to be placed in the Day paper for the purpose of public education. Vote: Approved

Landers noted it is the last quarter of the fiscal year and asked for notice of any signs, maintenance, expenses, etc. the Commission needs to attend to.

D. Ex-Officio

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

E. Niantic River Aquaculture

D. Landers updated the Commissioners on the mediation meeting hosted by Janice Duchane in Old Lyme by Marine Fisheries. In attendance were:

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Sea Grant
- Representatives from East Lyme and Waterford
- Dept. of Aquaculture
- T. Londregan

It was the consensus of the meeting that a small group of interested residents should form a group to look at the Niantic River in a holistic way. They discussed commercial aquaculture in the Niantic River, suitable areas for aquaculture, and the permitting process. D. Landers thought it was a productive meeting.

The Commission then discussed the proposed revised application submitted to WELSCO by T. Londregan. The proposed application is for areas designated 2 and 5. Only area 2 is in East Lyme. The Chairman reminded the members that the only input the Commission has is to say if the application is consistent or not consistent with our Harbor Management Plan.

WELSCO will eventually hold a public hearing on the application. They will not make a decision until after their review of the aquaculture plan is finalized.

The proposed area 2 runs parallel to Route #156 east from the Cini Park entrance (about 630' west of the existing kayak dock) south of marker 7, and at a minimum 125' from Route #156 and 125' from the federal channel.

Londregan stated there would be no gear outside the proposed area. He described the gear he would be using and that he may scatter seed on the bottom outside of the proposed area. He will mainly be producing seed product in this area.

The Commission stated it would be helpful if the applicant could place marker buoys in the water at the corners of the proposed area so they can get a better visual idea of where the aquaculture will be taking place.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Harbor Management Plan-Update

D. MacKenzie has submitted his comments and the Chairman will get them to the members. A special meeting will be called to review the final plan and to address all comments.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Areas for Aquaculture in the Niantic River

The members were encouraged to make a trip up the Niantic River if possible to view the areas identified for aquaculture. Landers offered to provide a boat for this in the near future. Murin and Hitchery volunteered to go.

B. Correspondence:

An anonymous letter was received by the Commission concerning nylon zip ties on moorings. The letter will be forwarded to the Harbor Master.

7. FINAL COMMENTS

Fred Weiss, 138 Niantic River Road, Waterford: Are there some criteria for leasing areas?

He was directed to the appropriate websites.

Ellen Fratus, 10 Second Ave. Waterford: Is the criteria the same as for the original six areas?

Ken Kleszczewshi, Oswegatchie Hills, Waterford: Is the application available to the public?

Yes, on both East Lyme and Waterford websites.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Landers /Hitchery) to adjourn at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Sue Spang
Recording Secretary

