

**EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT & SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2018
7:30 PM
EAST LYME TOWN HALL**

Chairman
Stephen Dinsmore

Treasurer
Donald F. Landers Jr.

Secretary
Joseph Hitchery

Members Present: Steve Dinsmore, Don Landers Joe Hitchery, Rick Kanter, Bill Mountzoures
Don MacKenzie, Greg Murin,

Members Absent: None

Ex Officios present: Selectman Dagle; Harbor Master Ron Johnson, Deputy Harbor Master Marc Berger

1. CALL TO ORDER: S. Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

MOTION: (Landers/Kanter) to approve the November 20, 2018 minutes as presented.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

3. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS: None

FILED

4. REPORTS

A. Shellfish

The Niantic River is open

B. Harbor Master

Ron Johnson reported that he has ordered and received the new stickers for 2019. The mooring renewal applications will be going out in mid January. R. Johnson thanked D. MacKenzie and Boats Inc. for their help in winterizing the Harbor Master boat.

C. Treasurer

D. Landers stated he submitted the budget with a zero percent increase as the Board of Finance requested. The total for the budget request is \$10,000 with all budget lines remaining the same as the previous year.

He stated he received a YTD report which states there is approximately \$2000.00 remaining in the current budget. It was not determined if the funds owed from Waterford for their share of Harbor Master boat repairs and maintenance were reimbursed to the Commission's budget.

D. Lander submitted an invoice from WELSCO for warden patrol and water sampling in the amount of \$307.00. The only remaining outstanding bills are mooring stickers for \$569.48, winterization of Harbor Master boat \$509.10 and recording secretary salary.

Dec 27 2018 AT 9:20 AM/PM
Kenneth Dinsmore
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

D. Ex-Officio

Selectman Dagle informed the members that the main issue in town is the proposal for the purchase of the Honeywell building for the proposed Police Station/Public Safety Complex. He stated that EL now has to pay Waterford approximately \$50,000 a year for the use of their jail and evidence room. He stated that is close to the amount EL would lose in taxes from the Honeywell property.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Harbor Management Plan-Update

S. Dinsmore reported that he and Geoff Steadman received confirmation of the privately owned Saunders Point water access areas from G. Goeschel (East Lyme Director of Planning). The Plan will now be sent to Marci at DEEP for final approval and then back to the BOS for a vote.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Calendar of Meetings for 2019

MOTION: (Landers/Murin) to approve the schedule of meeting dates for 2019 as presented. Vote: Approved Unanimously

B. Election of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary.

S. Dinsmore called for nominations three times.

MOTION: (Kanter/Murin) to nominate S. Dinsmore for Chairman, D. Landers as Treasurer and J. Hitchery as Secretary. Vote: Approved Unanimously.

C. Proposed Budget for FY 2019/2020

Discussed earlier

D. Sea Grant restoration project discussion

The Commission reviewed and discussed the communication from UCONN Sea Grant. The goal of this project is to identify and prioritize areas in Long Island Sound that are most suitable for shellfish restoration. The project will involve an analysis of environmental and human use data, as well as expert input review by many individuals and organizations. The letter went to all shellfish commissions to identify such areas in Long Island Sound. A map of the waters in and around the East Lyme shore and rivers was sent to the Commission.

The members discussed various areas that may be suitable for restoration. It was the consensus of the members that an area in the Pattagansett Estuary, specifically, south of Griswold Island and extending eastward up towards the entry of the Pattagansett River would be suitable. The members wanted to add restoration of scallops in the Niantic River as a priority. The response needs to be consistent with the Commission's Shell Fish Management Plan. S. Dinsmore was given direction to create a response to the request from Sea Grant.

E. Correspondence

The members discussed the letter from the Town Attorney dated 12/18/2018 in re authority for issuing leases for shell fishing in EL waters. Hitchery noted the letter did not address the critical issue of municipal v. WELSCO jurisdiction to lease areas specifically in the Niantic River and he requested that a legal opinion regarding the Niantic River jurisdiction be provided. Chairman Dinsmore informed the members that the First Selectman has asked that the Commission hold off on any actions related to leases in the Niantic River until after the Public Safety Building issue has been resolved.

7. FINAL COMMENTS: None

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Landers/Mountzoures) to adjourn at 8:49 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Sue Spang
Recording Secretary

