



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 20, 2018
Waterford Town Hall, 7:30 pm



Members present: Peter Harris, Tom Bowlen, Paul Spakowski, Eric Kanter & Elizabeth Gelinas
Absent: Larry Tytla, J. Patrick Kelly and Fred Grimsey
Guests: Chief Warden Richard Chmiel

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm and a quorum established.
- 2) The Secretary's minutes of the November 15, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Ms. Gelinas, (1) abstain- Ms. Gelinas, vote 4 to 1; motion passed.
- 3) The Treasurer's report for November 30, 2018 was reviewed and approved on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Ms. Gelinas, all in favor, motion passed.
- 4) Chief Warden's Report-
 - a) Both clamming areas are currently open; samples done 11/29/18, all good. The offshore samples have been eliminated and an additional sample added to the bay area per DA/BA.
 - b) The Warden's boat recently had a frozen hose, dead battery and was full of water; battery was replaced. The steering cable will need repair soon.
 - c) The Wardens are still not seeing any scallops in the river.
 - d) The Chief noted demarcation markers are pulled but in disrepair; he suggested purchase of marker balls to replace them; Waterford Shellfish uses them in Jordan Cove.
 - e) Discussion ensued on purchasing a 60 hp motor from Boats Inc. and selling the old motor. The Chief will check in to lead time on engine install and final cost to include steering cable.
 - f) Areas of vegetation in the river are almost non-existent.

- 5) Old Business-
 - a) Chair Harris requested members come up with ideas on a WELSCO experimental aquaculture project to enhance shellfish population. Mr. Spakowski would like to experiment with oysters. Chair Harris noted clam restocking would be beneficial. Chief Chmiel stated Stonington Shellfish may have some insight as they recently stocked with oysters.
 - b) Chair Harris suggested the plan to create a WELSCO Shellfish Management Plan should be postponed in lieu of the recent legal opinion received regarding the 2002 Aquaculture Policy Statement and the expense. Members agreed to table this item. Chair Harris may meet with Town of East Lyme regarding the legal decision.

- 6) New Business-
 - a) The two dock applications to be presented by Docko Inc. were tabled to a future meeting.
 - b) Sea Grant and the DA/BA are collaborating on a project to enhance the population of shellfish with grant funding. They have requested local commissions provide feedback on areas they would recommend; a map was submitted to the commission to clearly identify such areas. Further information on this project-in the preliminary stage- will be obtained at the Annual Shellfish Gathering held in January 2019. Chair Harris stated an error on the map received was noted and addressed with Tessa Getchis of Sea Grant. He asked members to review the map and bring ideas to the January WELSCO meeting for discussion.

7) Ex-Officio comments- None

FILED

Dec 24 2018 AT 9:05 AM/PM
(Signature)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

8) Correspondence -

- a) The Sea Grant Annual Shellfish Gathering is being held on January 26, 2019; interested members should notify Ms. Tinker to secure their space.
- b) The annual CPA audit was completed for 2018 and copies were distributed.
- c) The Fall/Winter 2018 Racklines magazine has articles addressing watershed issues and oyster projects in Norwalk; the magazine is also available online.
- d) Tessa Getchis of Sea Grant sent an article from URI on Oysters and how they help with disease.
- e) Ann McKlosky of the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Group sent information to WELSCO on oysters and how they enhance the water quality.

9) Public Input—

Marcia Benvenuti – *Waterford* – Inquired on DA/BA requirements with the restoration project, concerns with an experimental project, the 2002 Aquaculture Policy Statement and Watershed pollution.

John Hughes- *Waterford*- Inquired on WELSCO's position on the Oswegatchie Hills development project.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Tinker
Secretary

CEJH

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