



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission



Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 17, 2019
East Lyme Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Members present: Chair Peter Harris, Tom Bowlen, Paul Spakowski, Larry Tytla, J. Patrick Kelly, Elizabeth Gellinas, Eric Kanter and Marcia Benvenuti
Guests: Dan Cunningham, Ex-Officio

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and a quorum established. Chair Harris noted Fred Grimsey of Waterford resigned his position on WELSCO. Chair Harris commended him for his years of service. Chair Harris welcomed new commissioner Marcia Benvenuti.
- 2) The Secretary's minutes of the December 20, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved with one correction- change "create" to "revise" under item 5; on a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Spakowski, (1) abstain- Benvenuti, vote 7 to 1; motion passed.
- 3) The Treasurer's report for December 2018 was approved on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla, (1) abstain-Benvenuti, vote 7 to 1, motion passed. Mr. Kelly inquired on questions anyone had on the annual CPA audit report distributed at the last meeting.
- 4)
 - a) Clamming areas are currently open. Prior closing was due to 1" rain trigger.
 - b) Boat is running well-no issues.
 - c) Discussion on motor quotes; Chief will obtain three written estimates on cost for review.
 - d) During a recent closure it was noted people were clamming in the river.
 - e) DA/BA updated open/closure software recently- members must upgrade online and create new login and password.
 - f) Mr. Kelly suggested purchase of a new boat be considered.

5) Old Business-

- a) Members discussed ideas for an experimental aquaculture project. Mr. Kelly suggested contacting James Markow about raising scallop seed. Mr. Spakowski suggested we include oysters. Chair Harris is hopeful new ideas will be gained from the Annual Shellfish Gathering.
- b) Dock application for 153 Oswegatchie Road, Waterford was tabled as a representative from Docko Inc. was not in attendance.
- c) Dock application for 30 Bishop Street, Waterford was tabled as a representative from Docko Inc. was not in attendance.
- d) Chair Harris opened discussion of the DA/BA – SeaGrant Shellfish Restoration Project. An enlarged map of the Niantic River was reviewed and members were asked to identify and prioritize specific areas within the Niantic River, size and species -as per DA/BA and SeaGrant instructions – for potential shellfish habitat restoration: Members identified the following:
 - 1) The Northern region of Niantic River from Turkey Point to Rt. 1 = B ++ 20 acres (B = Bio extraction);
 - 2) The area of Sandy Point and Eastward = SEC +, 5 acres (SEC= Shoreline erosion control);
 - 3) The area of Pine Grove East to Waterford shoreline = FSE ++, 10 acres, scallop and = HR ++, 10 acres, scallop (FSE = Fisheries stock enhancement and HR = Habitat restoration;
 - 4) The area North of Rt. 156 to channel = HR + FSE +++ 5 acres, eastern oyster.The map and identified areas will be turned in at the Annual Shellfish Gathering.

There was discussion regarding testing of nutrient loading being done by the Niantic River Watershed Commission.

- e) Chair Harris discussed the Annual Shellfish Gathering being held January 26, 2019. Ms. Tinker has registered all members attending and sent in payment.

FILED

Jan 22 2019 AT 8:30 AM/PM
Lucy Miller
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

6) New Business-

a) Appointments of Treasurer, Chair and Vice-Chair:

1) Treasurer's appointment:

Motion made to nominate Mr. Kelly as Treasurer for another term, by Mr. Kanter, seconded by Mr. Spakowski, Mr. Kelly accepted, all in favor, motion passed.

2) Chairman appointment:

Motion made to nominate Mr. Harris as Chairman for another term, by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Tytila, Mr. Harris accepted, all in favor, motion passed.

3) Vice-Chairman appointment:

Motion made to nominate Mr. Kelly as Vice-Chairman for another term, by Mr. Kanter, seconded by Mr. Spakowski, Mr. Kelly accepted, all in favor, motion passed.

b) Chair Harris opened discussion on review and approval of the By-Laws. Mr. Kelly had drafted some changes. Ms. Benvenuti had questions on Mr. Kelly's draft of changes, the approval process and further questioned having a legal review of By-Law amendments. Chair Harris noted the Agenda should not have stated approval of By-Laws. Mr. Kelly suggested a sub-committee be created to review the changes. Members agreed to review the By-laws independently and bring ideas to the next meeting.

c) Ms. Benvenuti requested she receive a printed copy of all meeting documents to be discussed 4 days in advance of any WELSCO meetings. WELSCO protocol is to send via email all pertinent documents including Agenda and Minutes to all members and bring hard copies to the meetings monthly.

7) Ex-Officio comments-

Mr. Cunningham noted the dock leases on the Niantic side of the River are in jeopardy due to the bridge repairs. The Town of East Lyme is bidding on a Public Safety Complex.

8) Correspondence -

a) Chair Harris discussed advertising with a full page color informational on responsible lawn pesticides to raise public awareness in The Day newspaper. WELSCO placed a similar ad last year and split the cost with other commissions. Chair Harris contacted the East Lyme Harbor Management Shellfish Commission, Waterford Harbor Management Commission, Niantic River Watershed and the Waterford Shellfish Commission for assistance in payment of the ad fee of \$1125.00. He will have a copy at the next meeting and would like to have approval at that time in order to place it in a March issue of The Day newspaper. Dan Cunningham suggested placing signage around the Town's for awareness. Ms. Gelinas suggested reaching out to the local schools.

9) Public Input-

Debbie Jett-Harris- PGNA President- Niantic- Discussed an ongoing issue with over fishing in the Pine Grove area, illegal clamming and trespassing. She requested contact information on who to call.

Scott Gladstone – Waterford- Thanked WELSCO for their hard work and suggested legal counsel review any By-law changes.

Fred Wise- Waterford- Commented on the Shellfish Restoration project noting habitat is key to experiment; requested the meaning of historical fund; inquired on lack of reviewing revenue and expenses.

Lou Bull- Hillyer's Tackle –Waterford- Commended the commission for all their efforts and expressed disagreement with unfair comments.

10) The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Bowlen.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Tinker
Secretary