

**EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT & SHELLFISH COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 19, 2019, 7:30 PM  
EAST LYME TOWN HALL**

Chairman  
Stephen Dinsmore

Treasurer  
Donald F. Landers Jr.

Secretary  
Joseph Hitchery

**Members Present:** Steve Dinsmore, Don Landers, Bill Mountzoures, Don MacKenzie, Greg Murin

**Members Absent:** Joe Hitchery, Rick Kanter,

**Ex Officios present:** none

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** S.Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2019**

**MOTION:** (Landers/Mackenzie) to approve the January 15, 2019 minutes as presented.

**Vote:** Approved. In favor- S. Dinsmore, D. Landers, B. Mountzoures, D. MacKenzie.

**Opposed-none. Abstaining-Murin.**

**3. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS:** None

FILED

**4. REPORTS**

**A. Shellfish**

The Niantic River is open

**B. Harbor Master**

No report

**C. Treasurer**

D. Landers submitted bills received last month for payment. The Commission's budget has been approved by the Board of Selectmen

**D. Ex-Officio**

No report

Feb 20 2019 AT 12:15 AM (PM)  
Kaunthelm  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Harbor Management Plan-Update**

S. Dinsmore reported that Marci at DEEP stated to Geoff Steadman that the changes in the plan were acceptable and she would be sending it out to other departments.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Possible Port Authority Grant Opportunities**

There is a new round of Port Authority Grants for enhancements and feasibility studies. S. Dinsmore suggested the Commission come up with options for applying for the grants. He stated to apply for the grant permits must be in place. Some of the ideas for grants were:

- Enhance the boat launch at Cini Park
- Fishing pier off of the boardwalk
- Grand Street Dingy Dock

S. Dinsmore will speak to Gary Goeschel about any permits which have been approved. D. Landers will put together a list of potential projects for the grant.

**B. Gathering of Shellfish Commission Report**

S. Dinsmore informed the members he submitted the Commission's shellfish restoration paper at the Annual Gathering of Municipal Shellfish Commissions. He stated it was well received by Alicia Dragen. She offered to help get the rest of Niantic Bay and the west side of Black Point open for shell fishing. He stated that it would require more water testing of the proposed areas. S. Dinsmore will follow up with A. Dragen.

S. Dinsmore stated that all shellfish management plans need to be submitted to the Commissioner of Aquaculture. He stated the Commission's shellfish management plan should be updated and he suggested putting a flow chart similar to Stonington's when the new plan is drafted.

**C. POCD**

S. Dinsmore met with Gary Goeschel about the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) which is required to be updated every ten years. S. Dinsmore stated the Commission should have a subcommittee to represent the Commission's priorities and plans for the next ten years.

**D. Future Shellfish Restoration Projects**

S. Dinsmore suggested the Commission explore more shellfish resources within the jurisdiction of the Commission. He stated that restoration projects should be looked at as well as opening up new areas. It may cost more money but it would be offset by shellfish permits. The Commission could work with Bureau of Aquaculture (DABA) to mitigate some of the costs of sampling.

Discussion took place on the positive and negative aspects of recreational and commercial aquaculture in Niantic Bay.

Areas of the Pattagansett River were discussed as well as problems of access to possible shellfish resources.

**E. Correspondence**

D. Landers stated the Niantic River Watershed Committee received a grant from the Community Foundation to update their watershed plan and they have put out an RFP for the update. It will take approximately two years

D. Landers informed the members of an intent to purchase approximately 700 acres by the Avalonia Land Conservancy. The property is located in Montville and is part of the Niantic River Watershed.

The Ct. Citing Council denied without prejudice the solar farm proposed for the area around RT 395 and in the Niantic River Watershed

**7. FINAL COMMENTS:**

S. Dinsmore stated the Commission will be very busy in the coming year while working on the POCD, update of the shellfish restoration projects, harbor management plan and grant opportunities. He will be looking for members to volunteer on the projects.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: (Murin/ Mountzoures) to adjourn at 8:17 PM**

Respectfully Submitted  
Sue Spang  
Recording Secretary