

**EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT & SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019, 7:30 PM
EAST LYME TOWN HALL**

Chairman
Stephen Dinsmore

Treasurer
Donald F. Landers Jr.

Secretary
Joseph Hitchery

FILED

May 28 2019 AT 8:40 AM/PM
[Signature]
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Members Present: Steve Dinsmore, Don Landers, Joe Hitchery, Greg Murin, Don MacKenzie

Members Absent: Rick Kanter

Ex Officio Present: Harbormaster Ron Johnson, Deputy Harbor Master Mark Berger

Ex Officio Absent: Paul Dagle

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2019

MOTION: (MacKenzie/Hitchery) to approve the April 16, 2019 minutes as presented. Vote: Approved. Unanimously

3. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS:

A. Public Delegations:

Fred Wise, 138 Niantic River Rd., asked who would have jurisdiction if someone wanted to take water out of the Niantic River for a hatchery and return the water to the River. S. Dinsmore stated currently it would be WELSCO.

Keith Neilson of Docko asked the Commissioners to read the DEEP Blue Plan very carefully as it is complicated and in his opinion, a bad plan. He stated it will preempt all local regulatory agencies, such as Planning and Zoning and Harbor Management, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers. There is a public comment period which ends on June 21, 2019. He stated this issue is very serious and covers Long Island sound up to the first highway/road/railroad bridge on all rivers.

Mark Berger stated the proposal is dangerous and it appears they are trying to stymie everything. It includes all policies for development in the Sound and gives final authority to New York State to deny any proposals. He stated all of Niantic Bay would be in the Blue Plan territory.

Michael Theiler, a Waterford commercial fisherman, stated that they are trying to get a provision into the plan that if a proposal affects commercial fishing then the commercial fishing industry must be consulted for comment. He stated the Nature Conservancy played a large role in developing the plan.

Sgt. Macek, and Officer Willet, East Lyme Police and John Dwire, Niantic Fire Dept. addressed the Commission about the possibility of sharing the harbor management boat. The boat they share with Waterford is aging and they are in the process of applying for a port security grant to replace the motor on their 21' skiff. They stated they have more access to funding and would pick up the cost of

maintenance, storage, and management. It was suggested the boat be docked where all would have easy access to it. The Harbor Master and Assistant Harbor Master agreed to meet with the police and fire department representatives for further discussion.

B. Dock Application: Keith Neilson from Docko is seeking comment from the Commission for a private recreational dock in Black Point. The applicant is Andrew Bonover, Great White Way, Niantic and the proposed dock will be approximately 400-500 ft. from a previous dock (Dowling) which was approved. The dock will be on steel pilings and will accommodate two boats with a lift. Neilson stated the dock is designed to withstand the weather and storms that occur in the area.

**MOTION: (Murin/Hitchery) finds the application is consistent with the Harbor Management Plan.
Vote: Approved Unanimously.**

4. REPORTS

A. Shellfish

No report

B. Harbor Master

A written report from Harbor Master R. Johnson was read into the record. As of May 21, 2019 there are:

- 299 mooring renewals have been received
- 205 have been processed
- 80 are awaiting inspection
- 6 are not renewing
- \$4975.00 has been received from mooring renewals

The Harbor Master boat is being made ready for the season and will be in East Lyme by the end of the week.

C. Treasurer

WELSCO submitted Warden bills for \$37.50 and 31.25, and a \$275 bill for a fertilizer/nitrate advertisement. A \$320.00 check was received from Niantic Bay Shellfish for their Bay lease payment.

D. Ex-Officio

No Report

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Harbor Management Plan-Update

S. Dinsmore reported that the Plan will be on the BOS agenda in the next couple of months.

B. Possible Port Authority Grant

S. Dinsmore emailed G. Goeschel for possible grant projects.

C. POCD Report

D. Landers has looked at the POCD and made comment on areas that need updating.

D. Future Shellfish Restoration Projects

S. Dinsmore is waiting to hear back from DABA concerning opening up more of Niantic Bay and Black Point areas.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Correspondence

Letter of Support for CT NERR NOAA

D. Landers reached out to CT NERR NOAA for clarification on the grant and has received no response.

7. FINAL COMMENTS:

No comments

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Hitchery/Murin) to adjourn at 8:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Sue Spang

Recording Secretary