

EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT & SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2019, 7:30 PM
EAST LYME TOWN HALL

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
Jun 24 2019 AT 11:43 AM/PM
Brooke Honnell ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Chairman
Stephen Dinsmore

Treasurer
Donald F. Landers Jr.

Secretary
Joseph Hitchery

Members Present: Steve Dinsmore, Don Landers, Joe Hitchery, Greg Murin, Don MacKenzie, Rick Kanter
Ex Officios Present: Harbormaster Ron Johnson, Deputy Harbor Master Mark Berger, Selectman Paul Dagle

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 21, 2019

MOTION: (Murin/Landers) to approve the May 21, 2019 minutes as presented. Vote: Approved. Unanimously

3. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS:

A. Public Delegations:

Mike Theiler, Waterford, stated that after talking to the Harbor Master on Block Island about the various jobs and responsibilities he has, Theiler believes the East Lyme Harbor Master and Deputy Harbor Master should get paid more so they can do the job as intended. He stated there is more that can be done but the position should be considered a "volunteer" position considering the low stipend paid by the State.

The difficulty of placing moorings was discussed and the need for a program to do a grid layout of moorings.

The members discussed the State statute, Town ordinance, and the Harbor Management Plan, all of which require mooring fees collected by the Harbor Management Commission be placed into a special fund to be used only for harbor improvements and harbor master expenses. S. Dinsmore discussed the issue with previous First Selectman Formica and was told that the operating budget the Commission receives is more than they take in for fees.

D. Landers stated the Commission takes in between \$7,000 and \$8,000. Discussion took place on raising the fee for moorings. J. Hitchery stated no mooring fee increase should be considered until the special fund is established as required by law.

P. Dagle will bring the issue to the BOS for discussion and clarification.

Mike Johnson, 45 Bellaire Ave. wanted to know what you get for the fee paid to the Town for a mooring spot.

B. Presentation by Keith Neilson on the Blue Plan. No presentation as Neilson was absent.

The members discussed the Blue Plan. Because the plan is over 400 pages, members have not read the whole document. Based on the information they have received about the plan, it was the consensus of the commission to direct the chairman to write a letter to the DEEP stating their concerns of the autonomy and authority of the commission being usurped by the plan.

4. REPORTS

A. Shellfish

Bed A & E is open. There are new buoy markers for the shellfish areas.

B. Harbor Master

R. Johnson, Harbor Master stated there was a report of a sailboat dragging anchor in the Niantic river. While responding to the report and talking to the owner he realized the man had been living on the boat while in the river, and the Harbor Master asked him to leave the area.

R. Johnson is in the process of inspecting mooring buoys for permit sticker display. He reported one of the harbor master boat engines had a problem and was fixed by Boats Inc. for \$180.00.

R. Johnson stated he and the E.L.P.D. have been communicating on the needs of each department for a possible boat swap. P. Dagle will check with the BOS and the terms of the grant for the Harbor Master boat.

C. Treasurer

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

D. Ex-Officio

P. Dagle was not sure when the Harbor Management plan would be on the BOS agenda. He asked if the Commission had anyone to fill the vacancy.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Harbor Management Plan-Update

The plan is being reviewed by Town counsel.

B. Possible Port Authority Grant

S. Dinsmore stated the deadline for application has passed.

C. POCD Report

S. Dinsmore thanked D. Landers for submitting comments

D. Future Shellfish Restoration Projects

S. Dinsmore stated DABA is still on board with the 3" rain trigger for the bay, as well as opening areas in Black Point.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Correspondence-none

B. Blue Plan-discussed earlier

7. FINAL COMMENTS:

No comments

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Hitchery/Landers) to adjourn at 8:42 PM

Respectfully Submitted
Sue Spang
Recording Secretary