



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission



Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 20, 2019
Waterford Town Hall, 7:30 pm

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

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm and a quorum established.
- 2) The Secretary's minutes of the May 16, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla to approve the minutes, with (1) abstention: Mr. Kanter, motion passed, vote 6 to 0.

The Secretary's minutes of the June 5, 2019 special meeting were reviewed. Motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Bowlen to approve the minutes, with (1) abstention: Ms. Benvenuti, motion passed, vote 6 to 0..

- 3) The Treasurer's report for May 2019 was reviewed. Motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Ms. Gelinias to approve the Treasurer's report, motion passed, vote 7-0.
- 4) Chief Wardens Report:
 - a) Currently the river is open and there are plenty of clams and steamers.
 - b) The boat's new engine was ordered and is on route.
 - c) The lock on Warden's office door needs repair or replacement.
 - d) The old demarcations signs recently replaced will be disposed of soon.
 - e) Mago Point Marina is now open to purchase fuel.

5) Old Business-

- a) Discussion of the By-laws was postponed as they are currently being reviewed by Robert Avena, Waterford Town Attorney.
- b) The purchase of clam stock approved at the last meeting may be a lesser amount upon delivery as there is a possible clam seed shortage. There was discussion on future purchasing of oyster seed for the Niantic River.
- c) Dave Carey of DA/BA has been contacted regarding a Shellfish Management Plan as the DA/BA has a plan template. The commission has not yet received a response.

6) New Business-

- a) Motion by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Kanter to review a draft proposal, "The Niantic River Project: A self-sustaining seeding initiative", (2) opposed, motion passed, vote 5-2. Ms. Winkler reviewed a draft proposal on this initiative that could help restore the Niantic River; the effort would be done with the guidance of James Markow of Aeros Oyster. Ms. Winkler explained the project would focus on oyster reseeding. (attachment 1) There was further discussion and questions by commission members. A motion by Chair Harris, seconded by Mr. Tytla to form a subcommittee to meet with Ms. Winkler and further review The Niantic River Project proposal, motion passed, vote 7-0. Chair Harris, Mr. Spakowski and Mr. Kanter agreed to be WELSCO representatives on the subcommittee. Chair Harris noted they should plan to meet once per month and again at the regularly scheduled WELSCO meetings.

7) Ex-Officio comments-

Mr. Cunningham reported a new bathroom has been installed at Cini Park.

FILED

June 24 2019 AT 9:05 AM/PM

Carol Winkler

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

8) Correspondence-

Chair Harris received information on the Niantic River Project oyster reseeding proposal.

9) Public Input-

Robin Wallman- Waterford: Commented on the importance of water quality and supports the Niantic River Project reseeding proposal.

Alex Marco- Niantic- Supports the Niantic River Project reseeding proposal.

10) The WELSCO meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Bowen.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Tinker
Secretary

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