



# Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission



Special Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 21, 2020  
Virtual meeting held via Zoom, 4:00 pm

Members present: Chair Peter Harris, J. Patrick Kelly, Eric Kanter, Tom Bowlen, Larry Tytla, Elizabeth Gelinias, and Marcia Benvenuti  
Members absent: Paul Spakowski  
Guests: Dave Campo, Kim Allen, Alissa Dragan, David Carey, Robert Avena, Rich Chmiel

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm and a quorum established.
- 2) Options to conduct WELSCO accounting/financial activities: Three potential accounting-financial service options were presented by Mr. Harris. The 3 options were the Town of Waterford, Premier Accounting, and Michelle Penn. Kim Allen was available to answer questions regarding the proposal from the Town of Waterford. A discussion ensued and a motion was made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Tytla to select the Town of Waterford to conduct WELSCO's accounting and payroll responsibilities. Motion was approved on a voice vote of 5-1, Ms. Gelinias opposed and Mr. Kanter recused himself as he is related to Michelle Penn. Mr. Harris and Mr. Kelly will work with Kim Allen to transfer accounting responsibilities to the Town of Waterford as soon as possible.
- 3) Reclassification of recreation shellfishing areas in the Niantic River: Alissa Dragan and David Carey from DA/BA presented information related to a recent decision by DA/BA to change the recreational shellfishing areas due to number of boats and moorings in the Niantic River. A discussion ensued and a compromise was agreed to with DA/BA that the current recreational shellfishing areas would remain with WELSCO collecting boat and mooring data in the next few months for DA/BA. Closure of shellfishing areas on Jul 4<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day weekends would occur due to the high population of recreational boating in the Niantic River on those weekends. Waterford and East Lyme Harbor Management Commissions would also be informed of this potential reduction in recreational shellfishing area if mooring number/location modifications are not implemented. Mr. Harris thanked DA/BA for working with WELSCO to find the least disruptive solution to this issue.

9) Public Input-

Doug Lawson, Waterford Shellfish Commission – supported efforts by DA/BA to work with shellfish commissions and also recommended WELSCO support local aquaculture companies that have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic by purchasing surplus shellfish stock for seeding of their recreational beds. David Carey of DA/BA commented that a list of aquaculture companies would be available describing surplus shellfish stock available to shellfish commissions in June.

- 10) The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm on a motion by Mr. Tytla, seconded by Ms. Gelinias.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris

**FILED**

May 25, 2020 AT 8:20 AM/PM  
Brooke Thomas ATC  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK