



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission



Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 04 June, 2020
Virtual meeting held via Zoom, 4:00 pm

Members present: Chair Peter Harris, J. Patrick Kelly, Eric Kanter, Tom Bowlen, and Marcia Benvenuti
Members absent: Paul Spakowski, Larry Tytla
Guests: Dave Campo, Kim Allen, Waterford First Selectman Rob Brule

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm and a quorum established.
- 2) Review and approval of previous meeting minutes:
 - a. Feb 2020 Minutes – Approved following a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Benvenuti, voice vote 5-0.
 - b. Mar 2020 – no meeting was held due to the Covid 19 pandemic
 - c. Apr 2020 - no meeting was held due to the Covid 19 pandemic
 - d. May 2020 Special meeting minutes held via Zoom due to Covid 19 pandemic – Approved following a motion by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Bowlen, voice vote 5-0.
- 3) Review and approval of previous meeting financials
The financial reports available to date were reviewed and approved on a motion by Mr. Kanter, seconded by Mr. Bowlen, voice vote 5-0.
- 4) Discussion and potential action on purchase of shellfish stock from Commercial Aquaculture suppliers : Mr. Harris will contact CT commercial shellfish growers and obtain pricing information on surplus shellfish stock created by the Covid 19 pandemic. Mr. Harris will bring information to the next meeting.
- 5) Update on recreational shellfishing area reclassification by DA/BA: Lengthy discussion ensued regarding potential shellfish classification change. Also discussed was WELSCO's ability to sell permits considering the Covid 19 pandemic. A recreational permit disclaimer was drafted by the commission to be included with future permits regarding the potential reclassification of the Niantic River shellfish beds by DA/BA. This disclaimer would be reviewed by the Waterford town attorney prior to distribution. The disclaimer text was approved on a motion by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Kelly, voice vote = 5-0.

Disclaimer text:

The Bureau of Aquaculture is currently conducting a periodic review of the number of moorings and boats in the Niantic River. This review may impact, in the near future, the size and location of the shellfish beds Seasonally Open from May 1 – November 14. Also, due to high boat traffic on July 4th weekend and Labor Day weekend, at the request of the Bureau of Aquaculture, WELSCO will close the Niantic River to shellfishing on those days (July 4th weekend and Labor Day weekend, Friday sunrise – Sunday sunset).

Shellfish status line = 860-444-5812

FILED

June 8, 2020 AT 8:36 AM/PM
Bruce Stevens
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

6) Update on transfer of financial responsibilities to Town of Waterford: Mr. Harris and Mr. Kelly updated the commission on the effort to transfer accounting and payroll responsibilities to the Town of Waterford. Transfer is proceeding as expected.

7) Public Input: none

8) The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm on a motion by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Bowlen.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris