

**EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT & SHELLFISH COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 19, 2020 7:30 PM  
EAST LYME TOWN HALL**

**Meeting was conducted by ZOOM due to COVID**

Chairman  
Stephen Dinsmore

Treasurer  
Donald F. Landers Jr.

Secretary  
Craig Mason

**Members Present:** Steve Dinsmore, Joe Hitchery, Don Landers, Craig Mason, Don MacKenzie, Rick Kanter

**Members Absent:** Greg Murin

**Ex-Officio(s) Present:** P. Dagle

**Ex-Officio(s) Absent:** Harbormaster Ron Johnson, Deputy Harbor Master, Mark Berger,

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** S. Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 7:59 PM

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2020**

**MOTION: (Kanter/MacKenzie) to approve the December 15, 2020 minutes as presented.**

**Vote: APPROVED. In favor; Steve Dinsmore, Joe Hitchery, Craig Mason, Don MacKenzie, Rick Kanter. Opposed; none. Abstaining; Don Landers**

FILED

**3. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS: none**

Jan 21 20 21 AT 3:05 AM/PM  
*(Signature)*  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

**4. REPORTS**

**A. Treasurer:**

D. Landers informed the members the Commission's budget has been submitted. It has not been decided which budget the cost of the pump out boat will be coming out of.

**B. Ex-Officio**

Selectman Dagle suggested the commission submit D. McKenzie's questions and any discussions with T. Londregan to the BOS and the town attorney.

**C. Harbor Master-no report**

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Londregan Lease Renewal (EL 3)**

The Commission discussed raising the lease price per acre. D. Mackenzie's questions as to amending the lease to include clams and other shellfish were discussed. The members decided to talk to T. Londregan and negotiate some of the outstanding issues.

**B. EL Waterford Town Boundary dispute-no report**

Selectman Dagle reported that there have been no new discussions between the First Selectmen of Waterford and East Lyme concerning the boundary dispute. R. Kanter showed a map from the Connecticut Atlas of Political Boundaries which clearly shows the boundary between East Lyme and Waterford running down the middle of the Niantic River. He stated the channel can change over time or after a large weather event such as a hurricane, therefore it would not make sense for the channel to be the boundary.

**D. Shellfish Area Markers**

S. Dinsmore informed the members that DABA is rewriting their MOU for the bay and some shellfish markers will have to be relocated due to the MOU.

S. Dinsmore said he was at the, "Hole in the Wall" and the marker at that location was still there and looked good.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Habitat Restoration-Habitat Studies**

S. Dinsmore referenced the paper he sent to members by Tim Visel concerning oyster restoration. Dinsmore said that before the Pattagansett River became silted in it was a prolific oyster area. It was his opinion that the Fairhaven Bridge and the train bridge restricted water flow which contributes to the, "black mayonnaise" of the river bottom. S. Dinsmore said there have been many studies of the Niantic River and the Commission should make the effort to gather all the information and store it in a central place. He has spoken to the head librarian and she will make room at the library. R. Kanter has information he will gather to submit. D. Landers stated that Dominion publishes a report of the river every year which could be included in the file.

S. Dinsmore would like to see the Commission work towards improving the water quality in the Niantic River. The use of helical moorings was suggested. S. Dinsmore suggested there may be support and grants for dredging some of the black mayonnaise from the Pattagansett River to make conditions more favorable for oysters.

**B. Shellfish Management Plan**

S. Dinsmore stated the Shellfish Management Plan is over ten years old and is due for a revision.

D. Landers and C. Mason volunteered to take on the revision. S. Dinsmore will check to see what the approval process is for the plan.

**E. Correspondence**

D. Landers informed the members that the Niantic River Watershed Commission was done with their management plan and are waiting on the First Selectmen from East Lyme and Waterford to sign the document. Selectman P. Dagle will discuss with the First Selectman.

J. Hitchery had spoken to the Harbor Master and the mooring renewals have been printed and will be going out soon.

**7. FINAL COMMENTS**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: (Hitchery/Kanter) to adjourn at 8:49 PM. Vote: Approved Unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted  
Sue Spang  
Recording Secretary

**2021 Meeting Dates:** February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 21\*, July 19\*, August 16\*, September 21, October 19, November 16 and December 21.

\*3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month