



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission

FILED



Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Sep 16, 2021
East Lyme Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Sept 20 2021 AT 8:47 AM/PM.

Brooke Stowell ETC

EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Members present: Chair Peter Harris, Eric Kanter, Marcia Benvenuti, Larry Tytla, Paul Spakowski, Tom Bowlen, and Fred Wise

Members absent: J. Patrick Kelly

Guests: Chief Warden Chmiel, Ex-Officio Dan Cunningham

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and a quorum established. Mr. Harris noted the room capacity of 32 with total occupants at the meeting being 13.
- 2) Review and approval of previous meeting minutes:
19 Aug 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes – Minutes with correction approved following a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla, vote 7-0.
- 3) Review and approval of treasurer's report
Treasurer's report emailed by Mr. Kelly reviewed by the commission. Approval of Treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Kanter, vote 7-0.
- 4) Chief Warden's Comments : Mr. Chmiel gave the report to the commission.
- 5) Old business:
 - a. Update on insurance policies and workers comp (WC) coverage – Mr. Wise and Mr. Harris are having difficulty making progress but continue to work on this.
 - b. Mr. Harris reported to the commission that the financial review is progressing.
 - c. Mr. Wise updated the commission that clams will not be available this year but has obtained a quote for oysters from Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm. The funding allocation of \$4000 previously approved for clams and oysters was adjusted to allow for that amount to be spent on the purchase of oysters from Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm. The motion made by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Spakowski was approved 7-0.
 - d. Discussion on the repair plan of the Waterford town dock continued. Mr. Harris updated the commission on the dock repair status. Mr. Harris and Chief Warden Chmiel met with a contractor to obtain a quote on the repair or replacement of the finger pier. Mr. Harris will contact Docko again for a possible quote.
 - e. Discussion on strategies to maintain shellfish populations in the Niantic River. Ms. Benvenuti presented the commission with a revised pricing structure for the permits as well as oyster limits and permit revisions. Discussion ensued and Ms. Benvenuti will incorporate those edit suggestions to the draft and present at the next meeting. Potential strategies to bolster the clam population in the recreational areas were discussed. Mr. Harris will contact DA/BA about regulations for clam dredging and Mr. Wise will contact UCONN to discuss environmental pros and cons of clam redistribution specific to the Niantic River.

- 6) New Business
none
- 7) Ex-Officio comments : Ex-Officio Cunningham briefed the commission on East Lyme's decision to help fund a new pump-out boat for Save The River-Save the Hills using Federal Rescue America Plan Funds. Mr. Cunningham suggested WELSCO discuss with the Town of Waterford the potential of using the Federal America Rescue Plan funds to pay for repairs to the Town dock. Mr. Harris will inquire.
- 8) Correspondence : Mr. Harris received a dock application project from Docko late Thursday afternoon Sep 16, 2021 and this will be discussed at the next regular meeting.
- 9) Public Comment :
Lou Bull, Niantic CT - cautioned against publishing an article on recreational oysters until the oysters have reached legal size.
- 10) Adjournment : Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla, motion approved 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris