



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission



Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Sep 21, 2023
East Lyme Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Members present: Peter Harris, J. Patrick Kelly, Larry Tytla, Paul Spakowski, Marcia Benvenuti, Rick Kanter, Fred Wise, and Tom Bowlen
Members absent: none
Guests: Chief Warden Chmiel

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TOWN CLERK

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and a quorum established.
- 2) Review and approval of previous meeting minutes:
Aug 17, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes approved on a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Spakowski, vote 8-0.
- 3) Review and approval of treasurer's report
Treasurer briefed the commission on the Treasurer's report sent by e-mail earlier. Report was approved on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Bowlen, vote 8-0.
- 4) Chief Warden's Comments : Chief Warden Chmiel briefed the commission on the status of the Niantic River. The river is currently closed to shellfishing due to a rainfall trigger. A motion was made by Mr. Kanter, seconded by Mr. Spakowski to allocate \$750 to remove aquatic growth and apply bottom paint to the boat. Motion approved 8-0.
- 5) Old business:
 - a. Oysters purchased from Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm were to be spread in the river Saturday. Due to predicted bad weather Saturday, this will be rescheduled.
- 6) New Business
 - a. Discussion and potential action to have a scallop season. After preliminary discussion, Mr. Harris recognized members of the public to give their thoughts. Names and addresses listed below in public comment section. All public who spoke supported a scallop season.
 - i. Motion by Mr. Kanter, seconded by Mr. Tytla to have a 3 month scallop season starting Nov 1 with a permit fee of \$40, vote 4-4, Mr. Spakowski, Mr. Wise, Ms. Benvenuti, and Mr. Kelly voted in opposition.
 - ii. Motion by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Wise to have a 3 month scallop season starting Nov 1 with a permit fee of \$35, vote 6-2, Mr. Bowlen and Mr. Kanter opposed the motion.
 - iii. Motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Spakowski to reimburse the sales outlets 15% of the scallop permit fee. Motion passed 7-0, Mr. Kanter abstained.
- 7) Ex-Officio comments : Ex-Officio not present.
- 8) Correspondence : Mr. Harris reviewed a correspondence from SeaGrant requesting restaurant contact information from restaurants who serve oysters and might contribute to a shell collection program.

9) Public Comment :

All public listed below spoke in support of a scallop season:

David Scott, 28 7th Ave, Waterford

Glenn Andrews, 9 Amenda Ct, Uncasville

Kevin Mace, 25 Pattagansett Rd, Niantic

Mike Wadsworth, 11 Locust Ct, Waterford

Mike Stepsky, 892 Vauxhall St Ext, Oakdale

Shawn Gaska, 28 Four Mile River Rd, Old Lyme

Mike Orobello, 5 Woodland Rd, Waterford

John Cyr, 60 Daniels Ave, Waterford

10) Adjournment : Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Bowlen, motion approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris