



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission



Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Dec 21, 2023
Waterford Town Hall, 7:30 pm

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EAST LYME, CT

2024 JAN 22 A 8:19

Members present: Peter Harris, J. Patrick Kelly, Larry Tylta, Rick Kanter, Tom Bowlen, Paul Spakowski, Fed Wise, and Marcia Benvenuti

Members absent: none

Guests: Chief Warden Chmiel, Ex-Officio Don Mackenzie

Tom Bowlen
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:
Nov 16, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes approved on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tylta, vote 6-0. Mr. Wise and Ms. Benvenuti abstained.
- 3) Review and approval of treasurer's report
 - a. 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. Wise, vote 8-0.
 - b. Motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Tylta to open a Charter Oak 30 month CD to take advantage of favorable CD interest rates. Motion passed 8-0.
- 4) Chief Warden's Comments : Chief Warden Chmiel gave a report on shellfishing in the Niantic River. The scallop season is slowing although it was better than expected.
- 5) Old business:
 - a. Update on the scallop season was discussed during the Chief Warden Comments agenda item.
- 6) New Business
 - a. Mr. Kanter discussed the possibility that East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission will open shellfishing in the Black Point area during the winter months. WELSCO discussed the safety issues with collecting water samples in that area in the winter. Mr. Harris will send an e-mail to the Chair of the East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish commission and DA/BA outlining our concerns.
- 7) Ex-Officio comments : WELSCO welcomed ex-officio Don Mackenzie to the meeting as the new ex-officio from East Lyme. Mr. Mackenzie discussed the emergency funding and repair work to the seawall at McCook beach
- 8) Correspondence : Mr. Harris and Mr. Wise discussed the following correspondence:
 - a. Work with DA/BA to update our WELSCO map
 - b. Reminder of the Shellfish Gathering date of Feb 3, 2023
 - c. Ongoing discussions on Waterford town dock repairs, funding has been allocated
 - d. A study assessing shoaling in the Niantic River channel
 - e. Invasive seaweed Hydrilla which is present in the CT river
 - f. Potential for a shellfish survey in the Niantic River by UCONN students.
- 9) Public Comment : No public comment

10) Adjournment : Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Ms. Benvenuti, motion approved 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris