

Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Jan 18, 2024
East Lyme Town Hall, 7:00 pm

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Members present: Peter Harris, J. Patrick Kelly, Larry Tytla, Rick Kanter, Tom Bowlen, Paul Spakowski, and Marcia Benvenuti (Mr. Kanter and Mr. Bowlen arrived ~7:20 pm)
Members absent: Fred Wise
Guests: Chief Warden Chmiel, Ex-Officio Don Mackenzie

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and a quorum established.
- 2) Review and approval of previous meeting minutes:
 - Dec 21, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes approved on a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Spakowski, vote 7-0.
- 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. Tytla, vote 7-0.
 - b. A discussion regarding WELSCO insurance ensued. Mr. Wise will follow up with Mr. Kelly on an insurance matter they are managing.
- 4) Chief Warden's Comments : Chief Warden Chmiel gave a report on shellfishing in the Niantic River. Clamming has been busy although recent rainfall have closed the shellfish beds.
- 5) Old business:
 - a. Update on the scallop season : Mr. Harris read an e-mail in support of the recent scallop season.
- 6) New Business
 - a. Dave Provencher presented plans for a dock at 212 Niantic River Rd in Waterford. Motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Harris that this dock will adversely impact shellfish. Motion did not pass with a tie vote 2-2: Mr. Spakowski and Mr. Kelly in support, Mr. Harris and Ms. Benvenuti opposed, Mr. Tytla abstained. Mr. Bowlen and Mr. Kanter had not arrived for this vote (this agenda item was discussed first after the meeting opened). Mr. Harris will seek clarification from the WTFD and EL town clerks regarding a tie vote and forward the information to commission members and Mr. Provencher.
 - b. Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions : Deadline to register is approaching, interested members should let Mr. Kelly know.
 - c. Nomination and election of Treasurer : Mr. Kelly was nominated for treasurer by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla, nomination approved 5-0 with Mr. Kelly and Ms. Benvenuti abstaining.
 - d. Nomination and election of Vice-Chair : Mr. Tytla was nominated for Vice-Chair by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Spakowski, nomination approved 6-0 with Mr. Tytla abstaining.
 - e. Nomination and election of Chair : Mr. Harris was nominated for Chair by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla, nomination approved 6-0 with Mr. Harris abstaining.
- 7) Ex-Officio comments : Ex-officio Mackenzie did not have any important town matters to discuss with the commission.
- 8) Correspondence : The following correspondence was discussed

- a. Mr. Kelly handed out a flyer describing the invasive aquatic plant Hydrilla.
- b. Mr. Harris read an e-mail from a scalloper thanking WELSCO for holding a scallop season.
- c. Mr. Harris informed the commission the Waterford Social Service Grant meeting was Jan 18, 2024 but our attendance was not necessary.
- d. Mr. Harris rec'd and e-mail from Tessa Getchis of SeaGrant for current commission members names and e-mail, Mr. Harris will send her the info.

9) Public Comment : No public comment

10) Adjournment : Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla, motion approved 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris