



# Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission



Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, Feb 15, 2024  
Waterford Town Hall, 7:00 pm

Members present: Peter Harris, J. Patrick Kelly, Larry Tytla, Paul Spakowski, Rick Kanter  
Members absent: Fred Wise, Tom Bowlen, Marcia Benvenuti  
Guests: Chief Warden Chmiel

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and a quorum established.
- 2) Review and approval of previous meeting minutes:  
Jan 18, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes approved on a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Tytla, vote 5-0.
- 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. Harris, seconded by Mr. Tytla, vote 5-0.
- 4) Chief Warden's Comments : Chief Warden Chmiel gave a report on shellfishing in the Niantic River. Clamming is open and the boat is out of the water due to recent storms. Floatation jackets were ordered and rec'd, motion to approve reimbursement to Mr. Kelly for cost of jackets (-taxes) approved on a motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Tytla, motion approved 5-0. Mr. Kelly will work to remove taxes from purchase.
- 5) Old business:
  - a. Update on the scallop season : Mr. Kelly highlighted number of permits sold (97) but additional collections need to be made to confirm number of permits sold. Mr. Harris read results of scallop season survey, although only 7 surveys were submitted to date, survey responses supported the scallop season.
  - b. Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions – highlights of the meeting were given by the commission members that attended.
  - c. Motion tie votes by commission – Mr. Harris relayed the opinion of the Waterford and East Lyme town clerks that in order for a motion to pass, a majority vote must be met.
- 6) New Business
  - a. Dave Provencher presented plans for a dock at 8 Point Comfort in Waterford. Motion by Mr. Kanter, seconded by Mr. Harris that this dock will not adversely impact shellfish. Motion passed with a vote of 3-2: Mr. Spakowski and Mr. Kelly voted in opposition.
  - b. Discussion and potential action on shellfish regulations regarding out of state recreational shellfish permitting. Mr. Kanter will review state statutes to see if there is any language related to this. No action taken.
- 7) Ex-Officio comments : Ex-officio Mackenzie was unable to attend due to a meeting conflict.
- 8) Correspondence : No correspondence was rec'd.
- 9) Public Comment : Mr. Bull, Hathaway Rd, East Lyme – gave a historical perspective on in state/out of state permitting as a prior member of WELSCO.
- 10) Adjournment : Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr.

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Tytla, motion approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris