



# Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission



Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 21, 2024  
East Lyme Town Hall, 7:30 pm

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EAST LYME, CT  
2024 MAR 25 A 8:47

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

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and a quorum established. Meeting time was adjusted to 7:30 pm at the request of East Lyme due to a meeting room conflict. All other WELSCO meetings in 2024 will start at 7:00 pm unless noted otherwise.
- 2) Review and approval of previous meeting minutes:  
Feb 15, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes approved on a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Spakowski, 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. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Wise, vote 5-0.
  - b. Motion made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Wise to send \$2500 to Save the River-Save the Hills as part of our contribution to the funding of the pump-out boat. Motion approved 5-0.
- 4) Chief Warden's Comments : Chief Warden Chmiel gave a report on shellfishing in the Niantic River. Boat maintenance recently performed while bilge pump was being repaired.
- 5) Old business:
  - a. Discussion and potential action on shellfish regulations regarding out of state recreational shellfish permitting. Upon further review, current regulations regarding do not have any exclusions for out of state residents. No action taken. Clarity over definition of local residence is needed. Mr. Harris will contact the Chair of the East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission regarding the shellfish area map.
- 6) New Business
  - a. No new business was presented.
- 7) Ex-Officio comments : Ex-officio Mackenzie described much of his current work involves the budget. Mr. Spakowski expressed concern over the I-95 project in East Lyme and the potential environmental risk to the Niantic River. Mr. Mackenzie will find the contact name of the individual managing environmental oversight for the project.
- 8) Correspondence : Mr. Harris discussed with the commission the request by DA/BA for contact information for next generation Shellfish closure notification system.
- 9) Public Comment : No public comment
- 10) Adjournment : Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Harris, motion approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris