

**EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT & SHELLFISH COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2024
EAST LYME TOWN HALL**

Chairman
Stephen Dinsmore

Treasurer
Donald F. Landers Jr.

Secretary
Jim Allen

Members Present: Steve Dinsmore, Don Landers, Rick Kanter, Hull Manwaring, Craig Mason

Members Absent: Jim Allen,

Ex-Officio(s) Present:

Also Present: Jim Spang Harbor Master, Marc Berger, Deputy Harbor Master

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
EAST LYME, CT
2024 MAY 22 P 2:59
K. Mason
TOWN CLERK

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** S. Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. **APRIL 16, 2024, Regular Meeting:**
MOTION: (Landers/Mason) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: APPROVED unanimously.

3. **PUBLIC DELEGATIONS**

A. **Delegations from the public**

Mike Heenahan, Chairman of the Giants Neck Beach and Harbor Committee is interested in the Commission.

Paul Grady, 92 Old Black Point Rd has reached out to the Commission about the speed of boats on the Pattagansett River. He is also interested in opening the Pattagansett River for shell fishing.

Mike Thieler, Mooring Inspector reported that he did an inspection on the Harbor Master mooring and found it needing replacement. He gave a history of a mooring he installed a couple of years ago at the request of the previous Harbormaster but the Commission voted to buy a less expensive mooring from H. Plaut. The equipment he installed was pulled and M. Thieler was not able to retrieve it. The gear Plaut installed was not to required specifications and is in poor shape and needs to be replaced. Because it is the Harbor Master mooring it needs to be adequate for any size boat.

M. Thieler submitted a quote for new gear of \$880. He will not charge for the labor.

4. **REPORTS**

A. **Treasurer:**

D. Landers reported on the balance and expenses report from the Finance Office. He said approximately 87% of the budget has been used. The amount does not include the funds left over from last year. S. Spang informed the Commission that two checks from Online Mooring came in at approximately \$7000.

A bill for boating supplies of approximately \$246 to be split with Waterford and pay for S. Spang were submitted.

MOTION: (Landers/Mason) To authorize the Harbor Master to work with Mr. Thieler to ensure the Harbor Master mooring in the Niantic River is in compliance with the standards, costs not to exceed \$900.

M. Thieler said all the equipment he uses is American made, all foreign products are inferior and do not last as long.

Vote: APPROVED unanimously.

B. Ex-Officio-not present

C. Harbormaster

J. Spang, Harbormaster, reported:

- 94% of renewals have been submitted.
- Many still need inspections.
- The sign on the highway bridge has been installed.
- The Waterford Harbor Master is responsible for the sign on the Amtrak bridge.
- The no wake buoys for Pattagansett River have been purchased and will be placed within a couple of weeks. The buoys have a 12-year warranty.

M. Berger said the Giants Neck area is in good shape.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP Grants)

S. Dinsmore informed the members that S. Spang spoke to the Town Planner and the only grant he had was for the upgrade of the boat launch at Grand Street but it may not have been for a SHIP Grant.

S. Dinsmore spoke to Steve Turner, previous owner of Lillians, about a transient mooring at the Hole in the Wall Beach. He was informed that they had a grant writer who could write a grant for a feasibility study of a transient dingy dock.

S. Dinsmore suggested that the groin at the Hole in the Wall could be covered and used as a dingy dock. R. Kanter said he would be opposed to a dock in the bay as it is not a good anchorage due to the swells. He was concerned about the maintenance and who would be responsible. He said people who use transient moorings would have to be aware they exist in the town and the information should be available to the boating public.

Permission from the town would have to be given before the grant was applied for.

D. Landers said there should be a study done to see if this is something the town wants or the economic benefit of a dingy dock for transient boaters.

S. Dinsmore will continue discussing a feasibility study with Main Street Niantic.

B. Shellfish Management Plan-no report

C. Expanding Open Areas to West side of Black Point

R. Kanter said the subject of opening the west side of Black Point was discussed at a WELSCO meeting. It was reported that Alyssa Dragan DABA, said there are too many people bathing and boating to open that area for shell fishing during the summer. The problem with allowing shell fishing in the winter is that the Shellfish Wardens do not want to go around the point due to adverse weather conditions. This leaves the shoulder seasons, Fall and Spring. He said that if it was to open during the Winter it is possible that a volunteer in the area could do the testing and coordinate with WELSCO as they are the ones who send the samples to the lab.

Paul Grady says he can see people shell fishing in the area now without it being formally open. R. Kanter said if it is an issue for residents, they should call DEEP.

M. Berger said there is very limited access to the area.

R. Kanter said there is more to the approval of opening the area than the water testing quality. The number of moorings, swimmers etc. affect whether shell fishing is allowed by DABA

S. Dinsmore informed the public that besides the moorings and swimmers, there are homes on the islands which have septic systems that are leaching into the area.

If volunteers are allowed to take water samples, should they be insured? Can shoulder seasons be allowed for shell fishing? Both are questions that need to be answered.

6. NEW BUSINESS

S. Dinsmore reminded all, that new members are needed. If someone is interested, they need to submit a letter to the First Selectman expressing interest with qualifications.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

S. Dinsmore said he receive a communication informing him of H. Plauts passing.

8. FINAL COMMENTS-none

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Landers/Kanter) to adjourn at 8:00 PM. Vote: Approved Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted
Sue Spang
Recording Secretary

2024 Meeting Dates: June 17, July 15, August 19, September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17.