



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission



Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Nov 20, 2025
East Lyme Town Hall, 7:00 pm

Members present: Peter Harris, Tom Bowlen, Larry Tytla, Rick Kanter, Marcia Benvenuti, and Fred Wise. Mr. Kelly arrived at approximately 7:15 pm
Members absent: Paul Spakowski
Guests: Chief Warden Chmiel

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm and a quorum was established.
- 2) Secretary's minutes from Oct 16, 2025 regular meeting was approved, with a revision, on a motion by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Tytla, motion vote 6-0.
- 3) Treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Mr. Tytla, seconded by Ms. Benvenuti, motion vote 7-0.
 - a. CW Shellfish provided additional clams for seeding at a cost of \$280 above what was originally approved during the previous Special meeting. This additional expense was approved on a motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Tytla, motion approved 7-0
- 4) Chief Warden's comments – Chief Warden Chmiel gave his report. Scallop season has started and skilled scallopers have been getting their limit. The tilt/trim on the warden boat is not working and will be repaired in early January.
- 5) Old business –
 - a. Discussion on future of present warden boat : Mr. Tytla, Mr. Kanter will look into repairs when weather permits
 - b. Clam stock purchase update – clams were received and placed in the Niantic River
- 6) New business
 - a. Annual Report – Annual Report due to Waterford drafted by Mr. Harris was reviewed with some edits. Revised Annual Report was approved on a motion by Mr. Kanter, seconded by Mr. Kelly, vote 6-1, Ms. Benvenuti opposed the motion.
 - b. The amounts requested from the towns of East Lyme and Waterford for the following fiscal year were discussed. A motion was put forth by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Benvenuti to request \$1 from each town, motion approved 7-0.
 - c. Chief Warden Chmiel has decided to step down as Chief Warden in the near future. Warden Keltonic will also resign in a similar time frame. Commission discussed hiring 3 additional wardens to replace Mr. Chmiel and Mr. Keltonic. Mr. Harris will consider learning the water sampling methods to act as a back-up during the transition.
 - d. Mr. Kelly discussed the recently completed Financial Review, no issues were discovered, Mr. Kelly will provide a copy to each town. No action taken.
 - e. Following an e-mail from the town of Waterford, the meeting schedule will need to be submitted for 2026. Meetings will remain on the 3rd Thursday of each month alternating between East Lyme and Waterford town halls. A motion by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Wise to change the meeting time to 6:30 pm was approved 6-0, Mr

Kanter abstained. Mr. Harris will confirm with the town clerks if meeting rooms at 6:30 pm are available.

- 7) Ex-officio comments – ex-officio not present
- 8) Correspondence - any correspondence rec'd was discussed during the meeting
- 9) Public comment – no public in attendance
- 10) Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm on a motion from Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Wise, motion approved 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris