

Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Dec 18, 2025
Waterford Town Hall, 7:00 pm

Members present: Peter Harris, Larry Tytla, Rick Kanter, and Paul Spakowski.

Members absent: Pat Kelly, Marcia Benvenuti, Fred Wise, Tom Bowlen

Guests: Chief Warden Chmiel, Ex-Officio Cindy Collins, Dave Simpson, John Gawlak

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and a quorum was established.
- 2) Secretary's minutes from Nov 20, 2025 regular meeting was approved, on a motion by Mr. Tytla, seconded by Mr. Spakowski, motion vote 4-0.
- 3) Treasurer's report sent by Mr. Kelly prior to the meeting was approved on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla, motion vote 4-0.
- 4) Chief Warden's comments – Chief Warden Chmiel gave his report. The scallop season is still open although the population of scallops is decreasing. Clams and oysters are available with Area A and Area B north and south open. The power tilt on the motor will be fixed in early January. Chief Warden Chmiel is stepping down as well as Warden Keltonic. Their service to the commission over the years is greatly appreciated.
- 5) Old business –
 - a. Discussion on future of present warden boat : any needed repairs will occur in the spring.
 - b. Discussion and potential action of hiring additional wardens. Mr. Harris detailed discussions he had with 3 warden candidates regarding their relevant experience. Mr. Simpson and Mr. Gawlak were present at the meeting. Motion made by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla to hire the 3 wardens, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Nelson, and Mr. Gawlak, motion passed 4-0.
 - c. Schedule of meetings and time of meeting – Mr. Harris informed the commission that there was a room conflict in Waterford and our meeting time for 2026 would remain at 7:00 pm.
- 6) New business
 - a. Annual Shellfish Gathering, Jan 24, 2026 – Mr. Harris discussed the upcoming shellfish gathering and requested interested individuals let him know and he will register the group.
 - b. A discussion ensued about the current WELSCO rain gauge, it is currently not functioning. DA/BA did communicate a rain gauge was available to replace our current gauge but the status is unknown. Commission members will inquire at the Shellfish Gathering in January.
- 7) Ex-officio comments – East Lyme ex-officio Cindy Collins introduced herself and is looking forward to learning more about the commission.
- 8) Correspondence - any correspondence rec'd was discussed during the meeting.
 - a. Mr. Harris did send another e-mail to the Waterford First Selectman regarding the Waterford Town dock finger pier, no reply was rec'd.

9) Public comment – no public comment

10) Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm on a motion from Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla, motion approved 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris