



TOWN OF EAST LYME *RECEIVED FOR RECORD*
EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT/SHELLFISH COMMISSION *EAST LYME, CT*

Chairman
Stephen Dinsmore

Treasurer
J.Hull Manwaring

2025 JAN 20 A 8:11 Secretary
James Allen

James Allen
TOWN CLERK

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2025
EAST LYME TOWN HALL

Members Present: Steve Dinsmore, Jim Allen, Hull Manwaring, Don Landers, Ron Johnson, Craig Mason, Susan Gonzalez

Absent: Jason Deeble, Ex-Officio

Also Present: Jim Spang, Harbormaster; Marc Berger, Deputy Harbormaster; Sue Spang

- 1. Call to Order:** S. Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
- 2. Approval of Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 18, 2025:** S. Dinsmore reported that the November minutes were not filed and will defer approval of the minutes to the January meeting after they're officially filed with the town.
- 3. Public Delegations:**
 - a. Mike Kolesnik, 11 Sunset Drive, Old Lyme
 - M. Kolesnik presented an aquaculture lease proposal for consideration by the Commission. Discussion followed among Commission members regarding water levels, accessibility, and sediment quality of the potential locations.
 - D. Landers commended M. Kolesnik for bringing forward his proposal and noted that the Commission would like to work with him to find the most appropriate spot for aquaculture.
 - M. Kolesnik would request a pilot lease of one acre using floats so as not to disturb the bottom and because they are easy to maintain. He was thinking of starting with 5,000 seed – maybe 5-6 float bags.
 - D. Landers suggested resources for additional information: TJ Londregan, Tessa Getchis (CT Sea Grant). S. Dinsmore also noted the January gathering of shellfish commissions.
 - S. Dinsmore suggested M. Kolesnik do a little more research into lease location before submitting an application.
 - b. Joe Hitchory, 27 Saunders Drive, Niantic
 - J. Hitchory commented on the topic of mooring insurance. His insurance agent said boat liability coverage applies if boat breaks loose from mooring and causes damage, needs removal, or if there's environmental damage.
 - The Commission agreed that verifying that the town is an additional insured to prove insurance on boat is appropriate, rather than insurance on the mooring itself. D. Landers referred to Ron Johnson's analysis provided at a previous meeting. R. Johnson added that if insurance was canceled, the Commission would be notified and can revoke the mooring permit.
 - J. Hitchory wondered if his insurance company would add town as an insured,



maybe a rider would offer protection. C. Mason commented that another option is a surety bond that lasts until mooring permit ends – costs ~\$100.

- Commission will update the Ordinance in time for the 2027 mooring permit applications.

4. Reports: S Dinsmore thanked Jim Allen for his service as Secretary.

a. Treasurer

- H. Manwaring reported a balance of \$30,545.69. S. Dinsmore asked why revenues were \$10K less in 2025 than 2024? Sue Spang said it could be from additional late fees or more applicants.
- Town of Waterford paid \$3,034 for their share of work on the boat. Overall, \$368.27 net income for current fiscal year.
- Invoice for \$85 received from Jeanette Fisheries for retrieval of summer buoy and installation of winter marker.
- H. Manwaring, S. Dinsmore, and J. Deeble met with BOF regarding balance – plan is for funds to be used for grant matching contributions or project cost overages.

b. Ex-Officio: Ex-Officio absent – no report

c. Harbormaster:

- S. Dinsmore thanked Jim Spang for his service as Harbormaster.
- J. Spang reached out to governor's office for update on Steve Albert's appointment for Harbormaster. It is on the agenda for December 17, and a copy of the appointment letter will be sent afterwards.
- The sailboat near the yacht club has left, but there's still a 30' sailboat in Bishop's Bay area. Owner was contacted and said he planned on leaving it there for the winter, although this was discouraged. S. Dinsmore suggested adding to the Ordinance that insurance needed while boat is in the water. J. Spang also suggested adding 32' limit for boats in Giants Neck and brought up prior discussions on amendment to the Ordinance.
- S. Dinsmore suggested one large update to Ordinance capturing: 1) tackle requirements, 2) 32' limit at Giants Neck, 3) insurance/surety bond requirement, and 4) mooring permit seasonal restriction (Mar 1-Nov 30). Should these go through DEEP? D. Landers thought Ordinance updates don't require revision of the Harbor Management Plan, but S. Dinsmore will review the Ordinance and come up with a list of changes to move forward with.
- J. Spang reported that three mooring installers/inspectors will be removed from the approved list (Sound Diving and Salvage no longer working moorings, and two divers that haven't provided copy of liability insurance after multiple requests).

5. Old Business

a. Shellfish Area Signage: No update from S. Dinsmore

b. Fishing line Disposal Units: S. Dinsmore glued on baffles so this can be taken off the list.

c. West Black Point Shellfish areas: S. Dinsmore reported that Paul Grady didn't get a



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chance to talk with Alissa Dragan (DABA) for training and sampling, so will start again in spring.

- d. SHIPP Proposal: C. Mason reported that he's been working on proposal language for the grant and will email to the group for discussion and refinement.
- e. Requirement of Insurance for moorings: R. Johnson said next step is to present ordinance changes to first selectman. He contacted First Selectman and J. Deeble to get it on the BOS agenda for review (will also need to add other items). Notice to public necessary prior to implementation – blast with online mooring in the fall.

6. New Business:

a. Election of Officers:

- Current Secretary Jim Allen is retiring.
- Discussion of nomination for Chair – S. Dinsmore agreed to sit for one more year as Chair and C. Mason would consider Chair in 2027.
- D. Landers motioned to nominate S. Dinsmore as Chair, H. Manwaring as Treasurer, and S. Gonzalez for Secretary.
- S. Dinsmore asked three times if there were any other nominations.
- There were no other nominations, and the vote was unanimous to elect the slate of officers.
- C. Mason and H. Manwaring are up for reappointment in 2026.

b. 2026 Tasks:

- Commission should revisit shellfish management plan and work on adjustment to the Ordinance.
- No longer have a liaison to WELSCO, D. Landers is liaison to NRWC. If anyone is interested, WELSCO meets third Thursday of the month and alternate meeting locations between EL and Waterford.
- Mooring fees will increase to \$100.
- Water classification may change west of Black Point if get testing done.
- Dinghy docks and fishing pier.
- Let S. Dinsmore know if any ideas for other projects.

7. Communications: None

8. Final Comments:

- Date of next meeting is Jan 20, 2026. S. Dinsmore will be absent, D. Landers will run the meeting.
- D. Landers noted that WELSCO is looking for shellfish wardens. If anyone is interested, contact Pete Harris.
- Tessa Getchis requested an updated contact list for Commission members – D. Landers will provide her with the information.
- S. Spang said farewell, she's been on since 2017. Commission said thank you and that she'll be missed. She will continue to help with Online Mooring for the new Harbormaster.
- The annual gathering of shellfish commissions will be Saturday, January 24 in New



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Haven at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station Jones Auditorium.

9. **Adjournment:** D. Landers moved to adjourn at 8:05 PM, seconded by J. Allen. All in favor, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gonzalez