



Dec 27 20 11 at 10:40 AM PM

TOWN OF EAST LYME
EAST LYME HARBOR MANAGEMENT/SHELLFISH COMMISSION*W. B. Williams*
EAST LYME TOWN CLERKChairman
Donald F. Landers Jr.Treasurer
Stephen DinsmoreSecretary
Barbara Johnston**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**
DECEMBER 20, 2011, 7:30 P.M. EAST LYME TOWN HALL
108 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
NIANTIC CT 06357

Present: Chairman Don Landers, Secretary Barbara Johnston, Treasurer Steve Dinsmore, Rick Kanter, Marvin Schutt, Joseph Hitchery (Harbor Master), Marc Berger (Deputy Harbor Master), Kevin Seery (Ex officio), Michael Theiler, Capt. David Robinson (OnLine Mooring).

Absent: William Mountzoures and Greg Murin.

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Landers at 7:30 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 15, 2011

MOTION (1): Mr. Schutt moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2011 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Kanter. Ms. Johnston abstained from voting. (4-0-1) Motion carried.

3. Public Delegations – Capt. Robinson would like to make a presentation to this Commission at its January meeting. Mr. Landers agreed to place him on the Agenda for the January meeting.

Mr. Berger and other fisherman felt the recent decision by Waterford East Lyme Shellfish Commission (WELSCO) to open the scallop season on December 15 was a poor decision. Mr. Kanter (WELSCO-CoChair) stated historically the season is open from October 15 through March 15. He asked Mr. Berger to attend a WELSCO meeting to express his concerns; WELSCO meets the third Thursday of each month.

4. Reports**A. Shellfish**

Mr. Landers reported the river and bay were reopened for clamming last Friday. Mr. Kanter stated that unlike clamming, scalloping does not close following 1" rainfall events.

B. Harbor Master

Mr. Hitchery reported mooring permit renewal forms are being printed and should be sent out the first week in January.

C. Treasurer

Mr. Dinsmore reported the budget for 2012/2013 was prepared and Commission members reviewed a printout of the proposed budget. The automated rain gauge operated and maintained by USGS will require funding of \$1750 per year. There was additional discussion of co-funding the rain gauge with other local shellfish commissions and exploring alternative measures for



monitoring rainfall. The Warden Payroll Account line item has increased by \$1200 and miscellaneous supplies have decreased. There has been no increase in our budget in five years; this year we will be requesting a budget increase of \$1100. A bill for Recording Secretary hours was received and a bill from Port Niantic was received for pulling moorings. Mr. Theiler submitted payment for his annual shellfish lease in Niantic Bay.

MOTION (2): Mr. Schutt moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and the 2012/2013 budget as presented. Seconded by Mr. Kanter. (4-0) Unanimous.

D. Ex-officio

Mr. Seery reported he attended the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen. Mark Nickerson was reappointed as Deputy First Selectman. Mr. Formica endorsed the America the Beautiful grant extension for obtaining regional grant funds. The Town is considering the purchase of the Samuel Harris House on Plants Dam Road. The Selectmen have authorized \$1,500 to have an initial appraisal of the property. Once a grant becomes available a formal appraisal will be done. There will be a Town Meeting on 12/21 for special appropriation of a DWI grant.

5. Old Business

A. Harbor Management Plan (HMP) – Reports from Sub-Committees. Mr. Dinsmore suggested that the Commission request capital funds for a consultant to update the HMP. He suggested an amount of \$10,000/year for two years. It was agreed that before requesting funds to support an outside consultant, the Commission should work in-house on updating the HMP. Ms. Johnston agreed to develop a plan and schedule for Commission members to work on updates to various chapters. She will have a report at the next meeting.

6. New Business

A. Correspondence

1. Shellfish water quality counts of fecal coliform. The counts in our area were all good. The numbers in the river were high.
2. An invitation to the Annual Shellfish Gathering on January 7 in Milford CT.
3. A letter from Gary Smith, regarding the Bayview Landing project. A legal notice was published in the New London Day on November 12.

Ms. Johnston reported the CHMA Annual Meeting Banquet was very enjoyable. Boating is being promoted and dredging of our ports and harbors continues to be a major challenge. The keynote speaker was Senator Ed Meyer, Chairman of the Environment Committee. Mr. Hitchery was recognized for his service and received an award.

B. Discussion of Niantic River No Wake Zone/Speed Limits. Mr. Landers reported Chief Pendleton (Waterford Harbor Master) and Rick Miller (Waterford Deputy Harbor Master) have agreed in principal to allow the two Harbor Management commissions to share the old Waterford police boat once the new police boat is delivered this spring. Mr. Schutt felt signage will also help slow down boaters.

C. Discussion of Shellfish MOU. Mr. Landers will investigate the status of the Shellfish MOU with Ledge Light and the other shellfish commissions.



D. Election of Officers for 2012. Mr. Seery opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission for 2012.

MOTION (3): Ms. Johnston moved to nominate Don Landers as Chairman for 2012. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous

There were no other nominations for Chairman.

MOTION (4): Ms. Johnson moved to close nomination for Chairman for 2012. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous

A vote was taken, and Mr. Landers was unanimously elected Chairman of the Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission for 2012.

Mr. Landers asked for nominations from the floor for Secretary.

MOTION (5): Mr. Kanter moved to nominate Barbara Johnston as Secretary for 2012. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous.

There were no other nominations for Secretary.

MOTION (6): Mr. Dinsmore moved to close the nominations for Secretary for 2012. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous.

A vote was taken, and Ms. Johnston was unanimously elected Secretary of the Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission for 2012.

Mr. Landers asked for nominations for Treasurer.

MOTION (7): Ms. Johnston moved to nominate Steve Dinsmore as Treasurer for 2012. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous.

There were no other nominations for Treasurer.

MOTION (8): Ms. Johnston moved to close the nominations for Treasurer for 2012. Seconded by Mr. Schutt. (4-0) Unanimous.

A vote was taken, and Mr. Dinsmore was unanimously elected Treasurer of the Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission for 2012.

7. Comments from other Commission Members

Ms. Johnston stated she agreed with Deputy Harbor Master Berger that changes to the WELSCO scallop season should be considered. Ms. Johnston asked to have a tour of the railroad site since she was unable to attend the last tour. Mr. Landers agreed to contact Mr. Morris to determine whether any other tours are planned. Ms. Johnson reported DEEP had a Public Hearing on



regulation changes. Ms. Johnston asked Harbor Master Hitchery for a copy of a listing of mooring permits issued this year. Mr. Hitchery agreed to make it available.

Additional discussion focused on the unfortunate drowning of a scallop fisherman last week. Mr. Schutt asked if warden patrols were routinely conducted during the scallop season. He was informed that wardens conduct patrols and that they were on the water the day of the accident. Mr. Theiler felt the water was very cold, and if a fisherman in distress did not get his foul weather gear and boots off, he would have a difficult time making it to shore.

Mr. Landers thanked the Harbor Master, Deputy Harbor Master, Recording Secretary, and all members of the Commission for their hard work and another successful year.

8. Adjournment

MOTION (9): Mr. Schutt moved to adjourn the December 20, 2011 East Lyme Harbor Management/Shellfish Commission Meeting at 8:50 P.M... Seconded by Mr. Dinsmore. (4-0) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Ghersi
Recording Secretary