



**Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2015

East Lyme Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Members present: Peter Harris, Rich Miller, Fred Grimsey, Paul Spakowski, Eric Kanter, Larry Tytla, and J. Patrick Kelly

Absent: Tom Bowlen

Guests: Chief Warden Rich Chmiel and Lou Bull of Hillyer's

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm after a quorum established.
- 2) The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and accepted on a motion by P. Spakowski seconded by P. Kelly, motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Treasurer's report was reviewed including the financials and the February checking account bank reconciliation; including any checks disbursed, on a motion by P. Spakowski seconded by L. Tytla; motion passed unanimously. P. Kelly will attend the preliminary budget meeting at the Town of Waterford with the Board of Finance on March 24, 2015 . P. Harris did attend a meeting with Mark Nickerson First Selectman of East Lyme to review WELSCO grant funding.
- 4) Chief Warden's Report-
  - February monthly samples are complete with the use of the Millstone boat.
  - WELSCO boat is currently out of the water; bilge pump problem and float not working.
  - The tilt/trim problem is under warranty and will be looked at by Defender Marine in April.
  - New hooks and dock lines need to be purchased.
  - The T-top needs repair; possible to cover under insurance but need to check deductible.
- 5) Subcommittee Reports – none
- 6) Old Business-
  - a) The Weatherlink rain gage is now approved and has been added to the MOU. The USGS system is now offline. There was a glitch with the weatherlink and it went offline but with a phone call to Chris Taylor at East Lyme Dispatch the problem was efficiently corrected. Those interested in the information can log on to weatherlink.com and look under EL Harbormaster for details shown in real time. Ledge Light Health District will still call with notification of opening and closings of shellfishing areas. A discussion ensued regarding the payment to East Lyme Harbor Management Shellfish Commission for the Weatherlink purchase. P. Harris will send an email requesting an invoice be sent for WELSCO to pay their share.

- b) The purchase of a drive on boat ramp was discussed. As it is expensive, costing between 3 to 5 thousand, one suggestion was purchasing a new trailer. The current trailer is unsafe and the tires are too small to hold and haul the boat safely. Another suggestion was to put money into bringing the current trailer up to date with what parts or repairs would be needed. A decision was not made.

7) New Business-

- a) P. Harris would like to establish a small committee to work on the Camp Niantic Exclusion Zone Agreement with regard to signage. E. Kanter, P. Spakowski, R. Miller and R. Chmiel agreed to form the committee. A suggestion for notification of the area to the public was to include a copy of the area as a handout when permits are sold.
- b) There was further discussion on purchase of seed or stock for clam and/or scallop beds.
- c) F. Grimsey of Save the River, Save the Hills requested payment of WELSCO portion for the Niantic River Welcome sign which is officially completed. He will receive the check expeditiously.
- d) F. Grimsey brought plans on a proposal for Riverview Heights; which was discussed.

8) Correspondence -

- a) The DA/BA annual report was received by P. Harris. The reports will be sent to all members .
- b) R. Chmiel forwarded information to members regarding **HB 5720: An Act requiring the Dept. of Agriculture to double the capacity for shellfish sample testing and to establish a site for shellfish sample testing east of the CT River.**

Motion - Made by P. Kelly to send a letter asking for support of this act to Ed Jutila, Paul Formica and Kathy McCarty, seconded by R. Miller, motion passed unanimously.

9) Public Input

- a) A local boy scout attended the meeting with his father who requested an explanation of the one inch rain trigger accountability.

10) The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm on a motion by P. Spakowski.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Tinker  
Secretary  
Waterford/East Lyme Shellfish Commission