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Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 6, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lawson called the regular meeting of the Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Commission members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Lawson, Francolino, Drennen, Malley, and Calkins.
Absent were Commissioners Havens and LeBelle.

Also present was Matt Shea, a Waterford resident who is potentially interested in joining the Waterford Shellfish Commission.

4. Approval of the June 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to approve the June 1, 2021 regular meeting minutes as submitted and reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote: 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried and the meeting minutes were approved.

5. Correspondence

Chairman Lawson stated that he has been forwarding all correspondence he receives via email in between meetings to keep the Commissioners up to date on relevant Commission business. A discussion was held regarding the discovery of the Chinese Mitten Crabs in Connecticut and what the State of Connecticut DEEP is recommending to help eradicate the problem. They have been found in salt water in Connecticut.

The Commission members discussed the possibility of purchasing oysters to put into the recreational shell fishing areas. Chairman Lawson stated that the limit for harvesting oysters and clams is one peck per day combined. The Commission is in favor of stocking oysters if an adequate spot for their survival can be found to do so.

6. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino reviewed the Treasurer's Report through June 7, 2021. He discussed revenue and expenses for the month. Chairman Lawson indicated he has submitted bills for Warden's hours and Clerical support for payment.

Motion made by Commissioner Malley, seconded by Commissioner Calkins to approve the Treasurer's Report as reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated that the recreational shell fishing areas are currently open. He stated that the new one and one half inch rain trigger will help to keep the recreational shell fishing areas open with significantly less closure due to rainfall.

8. New Business

There was no new business to discuss this month.

9. Old Business

a. Update regarding pending leases in Waterford waters

Chairman Lawson indicated he has been in contact with the Town Attorney, Robert A. Avena regarding the Aero/Markow leases and he confirmed that the two leases will automatically renew through wording in paragraph 14 in both leases that extends the leases until July 1, 2026. After this time it is his opinion that the leases will then terminate by their own terms and will need to be renewed or ended. The two leases generate income for the Shellfish Commission in the amount of \$1,468.00 per year. Chairman Lawson asked the Commission members if the renewal of the lease at the current lease price is adequate and it was the consensus of the Commission members to keep the price of the lease the same.

Motion made by Commissioner Drennen, seconded by Commissioner Malley to renew both of the Aeros leases without a monetary lease increase for the next five years. Discussion, Chairman Lawson stated the lessee of the bottom land farms the land without assistance from the Shellfish Commission and therefore the money generated from the lease can be used for restock or expenses relating to the Shellfish Commission. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Update regarding certified little neck clam restock

Chairman Lawson stated that he is having difficulty securing restock for the recreational shellfishing areas. He will continue to search and contact local suppliers to see if he can secure seventy to eighty bags to put into the recreational shell fishing areas. He explained that restaurants are back open and they are ordering from the suppliers leaving little available for purchase.

c. Update regarding the 1 ½ rain trigger MOU for Jordan Cove

Chairman Lawson stated that all parties have signed the final Memorandum of Understanding for Jordan Cove's one and one half inch rain trigger and it went into effect on June 10, 2021. He discussed the positive impact the new trigger will have including fewer closures and less mandatory testing to reopen after a rainfall leaving more time for people who purchase permits to harvest clams.

10. Public Input regarding Waterford Shellfish Commission Business Only

There was no one present from the public that chose to address the Commission.

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Discussion, none, 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission