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Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Zoom

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lawson called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

Also logged into the meeting were Fred Wise and Tim Londregan.

4. Approval of the November 10, 2020 Zoom Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to approve the November 10, 2020 meeting minutes as submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Correspondence

Chairman Lawson stated that he has been forwarding all relevant correspondence relating to shell fishing activity to the Commission members as he receives them in between meetings. He stated he hopes to have information regarding the rain gauge MOU (memorandum of Understanding) for discussion next month.

6. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino reviewed the Waterford Shellfish Commission Treasurer's Report through February 5, 2021. Chairman Lawson indicated he submitted a bill in the amount of seven hundred dollars for payment of Wardens fees and water testing.

Motion made by Commissioner Drennen, seconded by Commissioner Havens to approve the Treasurer's Report as reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated the recreational shell fishing areas are currently closed. He stated the water sampling is up to date and the areas are scheduled to open for the 2021 season on April 1st pending satisfactory water samples.

8. New Business

- a. Discussion regarding a proposal to split the cost of a SeaGrant Responsible Lawn Care advertisement with surrounding shell fishing commissions

Chairman Lawson discussed the proposal he received via email to share the expense of running a responsible lawn care advertisement again this year in the New London Day. Discussions were held regarding the cost if all of the entities share the expense. At this time the Commission is not sure how many have committed to sharing the expense but it was the consensus of the Commission members to commit to paying a portion as they did last year. The advertisement is geared toward keeping contaminants and pesticides out of the waters by educating home owners about pesticides use near waterways.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Havens to authorize the Waterford Shellfish Commissions portion of the payment toward the publication titled "Sea Grant Responsible Lawn Care" advertisement in the New London Day with the amount to be determined by the number of Commissions committing to cost sharing. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

9. Old Business

- a. Status update of the Waterford Shellfish Commission FY22 Budget Request

Chairman Lawson stated he has a budget meeting on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom to answer questions regarding the Commissions budget request. He will keep the Commission updated on the status of that meeting.

- b. Update regarding the Waterford Shellfish Plan

Chairman Lawson stated he had hoped to hear something regarding the Waterford Shellfish Plan from the Town Attorney by now but he has not. He will reach out again for information and will get back to the Commission if he receives an update.

c. Update regarding lease renewals

Chairman Lawson stated the Town Attorney has indicated he is working on the lease renewal and will contact him when it is finalized.

d. Discussion/update/suggestions for reopening the Waterford Shellfish Commission recreational areas on April 1, 2021.

The Commission members discussed the opening for the 2021 season. This year the Commission will sell permits out of the Town Hall and Riverside Grocery. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of online permit sales. It is the intent of the Commission to continue to restock and sell permits to do so.

10. Public Input regarding Waterford Shellfish Commission Business Only

Tim Londregan of Niantic Shellfish Farm spoke with the Commission regarding permit sales and offered his store front to sell permits to the public for the Waterford Shellfish Commission. It was the consensus of the Commission members to take Mr. Londregan up on his offer and Chairman Lawson will speak to him regarding the protocol for permit sales prior to opening the 2021 recreational shell fishing season.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Havens to authorize Tim Londregan d/b/a Niantic Shellfish Farm as an outlet to sell recreational shell fishing permits for the Waterford Shellfish Commission going forward. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried. The Commission members thanked Mr. Londregan for offering the service and agreed it is a good outlet for sales as he is open on weekends and gives the public more options for purchasing a permit.

Mr. Londregan discussed his application for a lease of bottom land in Bay Point, stating he applied over three years ago and has no response from the First Selectman or Board of Selectman regarding his request. He indicated he has sent three letters and made five telephone calls asking for a response but his requests have gone unanswered. He stated his due process is being ignored and he asked the Commission for guidance and help in getting answers. He requested a letter depicting the process for approval of a lease so that he can comply with the process. Commissioner Drennen suggested inviting the First Selectman and the Town Attorney to a meeting to discuss Mr. Londregan's lease proposal and the process for obtaining a lease from the Town of Waterford. Chairman Lawson stated the Bay Point lease has the support of the Waterford Shellfish Commission and they hope to get answers for him regarding moving forward with the lease process and an answer as to why he is being ignored.

The Commission asked Dave Campo if he could help out with the process by reaching out to the First Selectman and he stated he will do what he can to help Mr. Londregan and the Waterford Shellfish Commission with the lease process and will forward the concerns expressed by the Commission to the First Selectman's office in an attempt to get information that will direct the Commission in the proper direction to get answers regarding the lease protocol. He also stated he thinks an additional site for permit

sales will be beneficial for those who would like to purchase a permit on the weekends or when his office is unavailable.

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Havens to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer

Recording Secretary for the Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission