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TOWN CLERK

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 6, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Zoom

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

4. Approval of the September 3, 2020 Special Zoom Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Drennen, seconded by Commissioner Havens to approve the September 3, 2020 Special Zoom meeting minutes as submitted, discussion, none, voice vote, 3-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Correspondence

Chairman Lawson stated he had received notices from Town Hall requesting the 2021 meeting schedule and the 2020 Annual Report. Both are on the agenda for discussion and approval.

6. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino was not present to give the Treasurer's Report but Chairman Lawson stated he will forward the report generated from the Finance office at Town Hall to the Commission members to review.

7. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated that the recreational shellfishing areas are currently open. The areas will be closed on December 31, 2020 and are scheduled to re-open on April 1, 2021 after satisfactory samples are returned.

8. New Business

- a. Review and approve the Waterford Shellfish Commission 2021 meeting schedule;

The Commission members reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2021 and a motion was made by Commissioner Havens, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to approve and submit the following dates to the Town Clerk's office per their request, January 5th, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August 3rd, September 7th, October 5th, November 9th, and December 7th. The Commission will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of the November meeting that has been scheduled for the second Tuesday. Discussion, none, voice vote, 3-0, all in favor, motion carried and a notification regarding this action will be forwarded to the Town Clerk's office per their request.

- b. Review and approve the Waterford Shellfish Commission Annual Report for 2020.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the following 2020 Annual Report of the Waterford Shellfish Commission.

**Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission
Annual Report for the 2020 Recreational Shell Fishing Season**

This season the Waterford Shellfish Commission maintained Areas A and G in Jordan Cover and Area C on the East side of Waterford Island also known as Bay Point. Recreational shell fishing permits were sold at the Town Hall and Riverside Grocery throughout the recreational shell fishing season. Permits were sold on a daily, monthly and seasonal rate to adapt to the needs of the public. Permit fees are structured to accommodate senior citizens, residents and non-residents of the Town of Waterford. Permits are available for purchase April 1st through December 31st of each season without restrictions and are good valid for the season and duration of time in which they are purchased. The Waterford Shellfish Commission opted to keep the prices of recreational shell fishing permits the same as last year for this season. Over this past year the Commission was able to maintain leased areas of Waterford bottomland and is currently working on an additional area for commercial use to continue generating income for the Commission. The Commission continues to maintain and oversee three commercial shell fishing leases in the Waterford waters.

This season the Commission was able to obtain certified little neck clams for restock into the recreational shell fishing areas on two separate dates during the 2020 season. The first restock was on May 11, 2020 when fifty seven bags of mixed clams and two bags of oysters were distributed. The second restock occurred on August 22, 2020 and twenty seven bags of cherrystones, fifty bags of top necks and ten bags of oysters were successfully distributed. The Commission spent a total of five thousand four hundred

and ninety dollars on product for restock into the recreational shell fishing areas for those who purchase permits to harvest during the 2020 season.

The Commission continues to patrol Jordan Cove utilizing the Wardens of WELSCO (Waterford/East Lyme Shellfish Commission) as well as the services of the members of the Waterford Shellfish Commission. State regulations dictate that after one inch of rainfall the recreational shell fishing areas are closed until water samples are taken on the fifth day following the rainfall and lab results are received on the eighth day. After two inches of rain the recreational shell fishing areas must close for five days after which time the meat and water samples must be delivered to the lab for testing; this process takes eight to ten days on average.

During the 2020 season there were a total of one hundred and eleven permits sold generating two thousand thirty three dollars of revenue for the Waterford Shellfish Commission. Additional revenue was also collected in the amount of one thousand four hundred and sixteen dollars in annual lease fees. The revenue from permit sales and lease fees helps to offset operating costs of the Waterford Shellfish Commission. Permit sales were up this season over last season possibly from residents looking for outdoor activities during the pandemic in conjunction with long periods of nice weather. It is the hope of the Waterford Shellfish Commission that in the future they will generate enough income from permit sales and leased areas that the Commission will not require funding from the Town of Waterford for operating costs.

Future Goals

The Waterford Shellfish Commission will continue to restock certified little neck and top neck clams and will continue to meet and monitor the opening and closing of the recreational shell fishing areas in the upcoming year. The Commission will continue to lease bottom land to commercial harvesters and will remain active in participating in meetings with local and State shell fishing Commissions to maintain and enhance the effectiveness of the shell fishing programs throughout the State of Connecticut.

Motion made by Commissioner Drennen, seconded by Commissioner Havens to approve and forward the Annual Report to the Finance Department as requested. Discussion, none, voice vote, 3-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Lawson stated that he and Commissioner Drennen went out to pull the Waterford Shellfish Commission demarcation buoy from Jordan Cove on October 6, 2020 and was surprised to find that the Harbor Management Commission had placed a ticket on the buoy stating that pursuant to State and Local law, moorings without permits are prohibited. Mooring permits may be obtained by contacting the Harbor Master. Chairman Lawson stated that the buoy shows on the permits per State requirement and separates Area A from Area G. He stated that he will try to log in to the next Harbor Management meeting to determine why the warning ticket was issued and he will keep the Commission members updated.

9. Old Business

- a. Discussions regarding restock in the recreational shell fishing areas;

Chairman Lawson stated that the Commission was fortunate to find product two times this season to restock the recreational shell fishing areas and he hopes to be as fortunate during the 2021 season.

- b. Discussions regarding leases.

Chairman Lawson stated that he has not heard anything from the Town Attorney regarding the renewal of the Thames River lease and has not heard anything regarding the Shellfish Management Plan. He stated he will try to make contact with the Town Attorney for an update.

10. Public Input regarding Waterford Shellfish Commission Business Only

There was no one from the public logged into the meeting for discussion.

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Drennen, seconded by Commissioner Havens to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 3-0 all in favor, motion carried. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Waterford Shellfish Commission is scheduled for November 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer

Recording Secretary for the Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission