

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Waterford Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lawson called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

4. Approval of the February 4, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

5. Correspondence

Chairman Lawson reviewed various correspondences he received over the past month including agendas and minutes from Town Commissions and Agencies as well as the status of the administrative closure of the recreational shell fishing areas effective January 1, 2020 through April 1, 2020. He explained he has been forwarding all emails he receives during the course of the month to all of the Commission members to keep them up to date regarding relevant topics relating to the Waterford Shellfish Commission between regular meetings.

Chairman Lawson will contact the First Selectman's office this week to get wording regarding recreational permits on the Town's website to clearly indicate that the Town of Waterford recreational shell fishing permits are seasonal and are valid only from April 1st through December 31st of the year in which it was purchased.

6. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Commission through February 10, 2020. He reviewed the expenditures and revenues on the Financial Report generated by the Finance

Office at the Town Hall. Chairman Lawson indicated he has submitted bills over the past month for Wardens hours and secretarial support. Motion made by Commissioner Drennen, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to approve the Treasurer's Report as discussed. Discussion; none, voice vote; 4-0, all in favor and the motion carried.

7. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated the recreational shell fishing areas are currently closed on an Administrative Closure. He explained the areas are very difficult to access in the winter months prompting the closure of the recreational areas until April 1, 2020 pending the return of satisfactory water and meat samples and whether or not the Commission is able to secure stock for distribution. If stock is secured the Commission will distribute them into the waters once the water temperature reaches fifty degrees and the areas will close for as little as thirty days and as many as thirty days and can re-open after satisfactory samples have been returned.

8. New Business

a. Discussion regarding revisions to the Waterford Shellfish Commission Management Plan

Chairman Lawson explained to the Commission members that the Waterford Shellfish Commission should look into updating its Plan. The last Plan was approved by the Commission on October 4, 2005 and adopted on January 6, 2006. He explained there have been changes since this time and feels the Commission would benefit from updating it. He distributed copies of a shellfisheries management plan template he received from Tessa Getchis at UConn that should help with the guidelines and drafting the new Plan. The template was developed by Connecticut Sea Grant and the Connecticut Department of Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture in response to requests from shellfish commissions seeking to develop or update their municipal shellfish management plans. The document is a working draft and while the materials presented in the guide may be used as the basis for a shellfish management plan it is by no means meant to be a comprehensive guide to shellfisheries management.

It was the consensus of the Commission members to form an informal sub-committee to review and make changes to the current plan and to present them to the Commission at a regular meeting once the sub-committee has finalized the proposed language. Chairman Lawson stated once the Commission votes to submit the revised Plan it will then go before the Board of Selectman and the Town Attorney prior to its adoption by the Town of Waterford.

b. Discussion/authorization for payment to the New London Day for the purchase of a public announcement advertisement regarding responsible lawn care and fertilizer practices.

Chairman Lawson stated the monetary payment is split amongst the local shell fishing entities and is a valuable public service announcement that encourages homeowners to use responsible fertilizing measures to reduce harmful contaminants in the water ways.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to authorize Chairman Lawson to authorize the payment necessary to cover the Waterford Shellfish Commission's portion of the New London Day advertising costs. Discussion; none, voice vote, 4-0, all in favor and the motion carried.

9. Old Business

- a. Update regarding restock in the recreational shell fishing areas for the 2020 season.

Chairman Lawson the depuration of clams from the Thames River and the process for relocating and depurating the clams from the designated relay area in the Thames River into the Jordan Cove recreational shell fishing areas. Discussions were held regarding options for relaying the clams and the testing requirements once they have been distributed into the waters. A discussion was held regarding organizing boats for distribution once the water temperatures reach fifty degrees. Chairman Lawson stated he will keep the Commission updated as he gets additional information.

- b. Update regarding the Waterford Shellfish Commission budget request

Chairman Lawson stated the next meeting regarding the budget request is scheduled for May.

10. Public Input regarding Waterford Shellfish Commission Business

There was no one present from the public to address the Commission at this meeting.

11. Adjournment

There being nothing further to discuss there was a motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:05 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote 4-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Please note that the next regularly scheduled Waterford Shellfish Commission meeting is Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 7 p.m. at the Waterford Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:

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