

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 4, 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, Malley, Drennen and LeBelle. Absent were Commissioners Havens and Calkins.

4. Approval of the January 7, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to approve the January 7, 2020 regular meeting minutes as reviewed, Discussion; none, voice vote, 5-0, 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 notices of openings and closings of the Town of Waterford recreational shell fishing areas and 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. He reviewed correspondence from the First Selectman's office regarding the final budget hearing for the Waterford Shellfish Commission on April 5th at 7:00 p.m. A discussion was held regarding an article in the New London Day newspaper regarding a Cease and Desist Order in the Niantic River. Chairman Lawson stated there is currently only one warden taking samples and patrolling in the Waterford waters and he indicated there is a need for one additional warden if anyone is interested in the job or knows of someone who is.

6. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Commission through January 7, 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, conference dues and secretarial support. Motion made by Commissioner Drennen, seconded by Commissioner LeBelle to approve the Treasurer's Report as discussed. Discussion; none, voice vote; 5-0, 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 samples.

8. New Business

Chairman Lawson stated he does not have anything to discuss under New Business at this meeting.

9. Old Business

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

Chairman Lawson discussed a correspondence from the DA/BA regarding a concerned citizen who contacted the DA/BA with concerns regarding the depuration of clams from the Thames River. A discussion was held regarding the time frame 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 and the best possible time to do so in order to open the recreational areas by Memorial Day. Chairman Lawson will keep the Commission members updated as he receives additional information and he will be in contact with the individuals who will help out with the process. He explained there is a limited amount of time to get this done and he will work on a schedule and organize help to do so.

- b. Discussion regarding the 2020 Annual Shellfish Gathering

Chairman Lawson reviewed the information he received at the Gathering and stated it was a very informative and interesting meeting with well informed and informative speakers. Interesting discussions at the meeting included hazardous algae bloom (HAB) and what causes it, shellfish growing and shell formation. Chairman Lawson stated he has submitted the requested reports to UConn as requested.

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 7:45 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Please note that the next regularly scheduled Waterford Shellfish Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7 p.m. at the Waterford Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer,

Recording Secretary for the Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission