

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 4, 2022
7:00 p.m.
Waterford Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lawson called the regular meeting of the Waterford Shellfish Commission to order at 7:02 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Lawson, Drennen, Francolino, Jamroga, Healy and Porter. Absent was Commissioner Calkins.

The Commission welcomed and introduced themselves to Commissioner Porter.

4. Approval of the September 6, 2022 regular meeting minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to approve the September 6, 2022 regular meeting minutes as filed, discussion; none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Correspondence

Chairman Lawson discussed a request for a Shellfish Commission review and approval of a DEEP Shellfish Commission Pre-Application Consultation Form for the dock application of Marcello & Colleen Pace at 204 Shore Road, Waterford, CT. The application is to construct an eighty foot fixed pier dock at the property. He stated both adjacent properties already have docks in place and there is no known shellfish activity in the area of the proposed dock. The length of the dock is necessitated by the need for two feet of water under a boat at times of low tide. The approval from the Waterford Shellfish Commission is a formality per DEEP. It was the consensus of the Commission to sign off on the proposed dock application as the proposed dock does not interfere with or negatively impact recreational shell fishing in the proposed area.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Jamroga to authorize Chairman Lawson to sign off on the dock application for 204 Shore Road as requested. Discussion; none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Lawson discussed an invitation he received to attend a meeting with Waterford/East Lyme Shellfish Commission and Harbor Management to discuss raising the hourly rate for the Wardens services.

Chairman Lawson stated he will continue to forward to the Commission members all correspondence he receives throughout the month to keep everyone up to date in between meetings.

6. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino reviewed the Treasurer's Report generated from the Finance Department dated September 14, 2022 for the month of August, 2022. He reviewed the expenditures and revenue depicted on the report.

Motion made by Commissioner Healy, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to approve the Treasurer's Report as reviewed, discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated the recreational shell fishing areas are currently open.

8. New Business

- a. Review and approve the 2023 Waterford Shellfish Commission meeting schedule.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Jamroga to approve the following 2023 Waterford Shellfish Commission meeting dates;

January 3rd, February 7th, March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 11th, August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 14th and December 5th.

Discussion; the July and November meetings are scheduled for the second week of the months due to the Fourth of July holiday falling on the first Tuesday in July and in November because Election Day is on the first Tuesday of November. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried and the meeting dates will be forwarded to the Town Clerk as requested.

b. Draft the 2022 Annual Waterford Shellfish Commission Report

The Commission reviewed the information required to draft the 2022 Annual Report and will add this item to the November agenda for approval.

c. Discussion and Draft the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request.

The Commission reviewed the fiscal needs of the Commission for the 2024 request and discussed the revenues generated in 2022 for the Waterford Shellfish Commission and deducted expenditures to come up with a preliminary budget request. This item will be amended when additional information is gathered and placed on the November agenda for approval.

9. Old Business

a. Discussion regarding the Shellfish Resource Management Plan

Commissioner Drennen reviewed the amendments made to the Shellfish Resource Management Plan over the past month and indicated it is almost completed with the exception of a map that needs to be amended to reflect the most current and updated information. He will contact the people in charge to request a new map and keep the Commission updated with his progress. The Commission members thanked Commissioner Drennen for all of his hard work getting the Plan updated.

b. Discussion Regarding Re-stock.

Chairman Lawson indicated that Bloom Brothers has certified little neck clams that may become available this month for re-stock into the recreational shell fishing areas. He explained that the water temperatures are still above fifty degrees and it is a slower time of year with little to no impact on permit sales because of the cooler temperatures this time of year and he does not see closing the areas to be a major problem. The areas will be posted as closed to the public during the depuration period. A discussion was held regarding the need to re-stock to boost permit sales. If all goes well and the certified clams become available to the Commission it is the goal to put them out on October 10th at high tide with the help of volunteers who are available that day.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Jamroga to authorize Chairman Lawson to secure little neck clams from Bloom Brothers if they become available to purchase and to request a purchase order from the Finance Department to cover the cost to purchase the certified little neck clams for restock into the recreational shell fishing areas. Discussion; nothing further, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried. Chairman Lawson stated he will keep everyone updated with any and all progress he makes securing the product for re-stock.

10. Public Input specifically regarding business pertaining to the Waterford Shellfish Commission.

There was no one from the public in attendance to address the Commission.

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Healy to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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