

Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 7, 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 7:04 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Lawson, Francolino, Drennen, Calkins, Healy and Jamroga. There are currently two vacant positions on the Commission.

4. Approval of the May 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Jamroga to approve the May 3, 2022 regular meeting minutes as they were submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Correspondence

Chairman Lawson stated he has been forwarding all correspondence he receives that are relevant to the Waterford Shellfish Commission to the Commissioner members as he receives them throughout the month in order to keep everyone up to date in between meetings.

6. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino reviewed the Treasurer's Report he received from the Town of Waterford Finance Department with data through June 7, 2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Drennen, seconded by Commissioner Calkins to accept 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 that the recreational shell fishing areas are currently open and the Wardens have been out patrolling the areas and checking for permits. He stated the sale of recreational shell fishing permits is significantly lower than he had hoped they would be this year. It was the consensus of the Commission members that the decline in permit sales is due to the lack of product available for restock. In past years when product was readily available the Commission was able to restock several times a year but with the shortage of certified little neck clams over the past two years it has been difficult to restock the recreational shell fishing areas. Chairman Lawson stated most of the clams out in the areas are native clams and there are not many of them.

8. New Business

There was nothing to discuss under New Business this month.

9. Old Business

a. Discussion regarding the Waterford Shellfish Commission FY 2022/2023 budget request

Chairman Lawson indicated he has not heard from any of the Town agencies in charge of reviewing and approving the budget for the Waterford Shellfish Commission so he is expecting that it will be approved as requested.

b. Discussion regarding certified little neck clam and/or oyster restock

Chairman Lawson discussed the options the Commission has to restock this year and it was the consensus of the Commission to move forward with securing product from the Thames River and to close the recreational shell fishing areas for a month in order to depurate the clams from the polluted areas in the Jordan Cove and Bay Point areas but to do so after Labor Day when there are less people out harvesting clams. He stated he does not want anyone to illegally harvest clams while the areas are closed and get sick and he feels after Labor Day would there is a lesser chance as the weather gets colder and less people are on the water. The areas will be clearly marked as closed and the website will indicate the closure as well but he feels there will still be those that will illegally enter the areas to harvest clams anyway so by closing the areas during a less populated time of the year there will be a lesser chance of anyone getting sick. Moving clams from the Thames River to depurate in the recreational shell fishing areas is the only chance the Commission will have this season for restock of little neck clams. He discussed oyster restock and would like to order ten thousand oysters at forty cents each to distribute into the recreational shell fishing areas. He discussed establishing a natural set of oysters in the Bay Point area on the eight five acres of bottom land. The Commission distributed eighty four hundred oysters into the recreational shell fishing areas last season. A discussion was held regarding the best areas to distribute the

oysters to ensure their survival. Chairman Lawson stated he would like to order 2-3 inch oysters and explained that the three inch oysters are of legal size to harvest allowing the smaller ones to grow for harvest in the future.

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to authorize Chairman Lawson to request a purchase order from the Finance Department for the purchase of ten thousand oysters for distribution into the recreational shell fishing areas overseen by the Waterford Shellfish Commission at a cost of forty cents each. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Chairman Lawson will keep the Commission members updated regarding the purchase of the oysters for restock.

c. Discussion regarding progress made to the Waterford Shellfish Plan if any.

Chairman Lawson stated he has not received an update regarding the Plan but will try again to contact the Town Attorney for an update.

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

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

11. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Healy to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 6-0, all in favor and the motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Waterford Shellfish Commission is July 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Waterford Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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