

**Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 3, 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 7:01 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, Calkins, Jamroga and Healy. Absent was Commissioner Francolino.

Chairman Lawson welcomed and introduced recently appointed Commission members Jamroga and Healy to the Commission.

4. Approval of the April 5, 2022 regular meeting minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Calkins, seconded by Commissioner Drennen to approve the April 5, 2022 regular meeting minutes as submitted and reviewed, Discussion, none, voice vote 5-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Correspondence

Chairman Lawson explained that he forwards all Waterford Shellfish Commission correspondence he receives in between meetings to the Commission members to review. He asked if anyone has questions or comments regarding the correspondence sent over the past month.

6. Treasurer's Report

Chairman Lawson reviewed the financial statement from the Town of Waterford Finance Department through April 6, 2022 in the absence of Treasurer Francolino.

7. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated the recreational shell fishing areas are currently open and he has put the disc signs out on Reed Avenue and the Dock Road boat launch for the season.

Chairman Lawson explained the opening and closing procedures to the new members for clarification.

8. New Business

Commissioner Lawson stated there is nothing to discuss under New Business this month.

9. Old Business

a. Discussion regarding the Waterford Shellfish Commission FY2022/2023 budget request

Chairman Lawson indicated that he received the notice regarding the budget hearing for the Waterford Shellfish Commission and it is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. He explained that he will be unable to attend due to a family commitment but is hopeful that if there is anything that the committee needs to clarify for the budget request approval that they will contact him.

b. Update regarding certified little neck clam and oyster restock

Chairman Lawson has been in contact with Jim Markow who is willing to dig clams out of his leased area in the Thames River, bag them and clean them and bring them to the Jordan Cove recreational shell fishing area for depuration. He stated this will require the Commission to shut down the recreational areas for thirty days to allow the clams to depurate per State of Connecticut regulations. Once satisfactory samples are returned the recreational shell fishing areas will be allowed to re-open. Chairman Lawson stated there is protocol from DABA that states a representative must be present when the clams are delivered and distributed into the waters. It was the consensus of the Commission members that this will most likely be the only opportunity to restock the areas this season because of the shortage of certified little neck clams from any other distributor in the State of Connecticut. The clams could potentially be delivered by the end of May when the waters are above the fifty degrees required to ensure their survival.

A discussion was held regarding the need for extra warden patrols during the time the areas are shut down to ensure that no one gets sick from illegally harvesting clams while they are depurating. A suggestion was made to put up extra signage indicating the areas are closed and to post signage at the locations where recreational shell fishing permits are sold and to clearly post the information regarding the closure on the Town's website. A suggestion was made to post the recreational shell fishing areas on the Town's website as well as handing out the map with the purchase of a recreational shell fishing permit to avoid confusion.

Chairman Lawson will continue to work on securing the little neck clams for restock and keep the Commission members updated with his progress.

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

Chairman Lawson explained the last time the Plan was updated was in 2005, he explained he submitted a request and a template to the Town Attorney over two years ago and there is still no progress. A discussion was held regarding the Commission members reviewing the document themselves and offering insight and suggestions for updates and passing it along to the proper agencies for review. A copy of the Plan can be found on the Town's website if Commission members would like to review it on their own between meetings.

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

Mr. Mark Alexander was present and he stated he is a Waterford resident who is interested in learning more about the role of the Waterford Shellfish Commission.

Chairman Lawson gave a brief overview of the role of the Commission and its duties. Part of the discussion included the need to clarify on the Town's website that there are three separate shell fishing commissions and a suggestion was made to add Jordan Cove, Smith Cove and Thames River as the only areas governed by the Waterford Shellfish Commission to avoid confusion. There have been several occasions where the public has attended a Waterford Shellfish Commission meeting only to discover they were at the wrong meeting.

11. Adjournment

There being nothing further to discuss the Waterford Shellfish Commission meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by;

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