

**Town of Waterford Shellfish Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 5, 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 7:00 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, Francolino and Calkins. Absent was Commissioner Drennen.

Commissioners Havens and LeBelle have terms that expired and they do not wish to be re-appointed and Commissioner Malley resigned from the Commission last week. A discussion was held regarding recruiting people who are interested in serving on the Commission.

Mr. Don Dishaw, 298 Millstone Road East, Waterford CT was present and expressed interest in joining the Commission.

4. Approval of the March 1, 2022 regular meeting minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Francolino, seconded by Commissioner Calkins to approve the March 1, 2022 regular meeting minutes as submitted and reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 3-0, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Correspondence

Commissioner Lawson stated he has been forwarding all correspondence addressed to the Commission as he receives them via email to the Commission members for review. A discussion was held regarding a responsible lawn care letter to the editor that was published in the local free papers and the Day and as a result of this publication there will be no charge this year for the publication. Commissioner Lawson stated that

typically the cost of the full page ad is split between the local shell fish commissions but this year there is no cost due to a letter to the editor as opposed to a full page advertisement.

6. Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Francolino discussed the revenues and expenditures as depicted on the financial statement generated by the Town of Waterford Finance Department dated March 8, 2022.

Motion made by Commissioner Calkins, seconded by Commissioner Lawson to approve the Finance Report as reviewed. Discussion, none, voice vote, 3-0, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Monthly Monitoring and Sampling Report

Chairman Lawson stated he contacted Alissa Dragan, Environmental Analyst III at the Bureau of Aquaculture and Laboratory at the Connecticut State Department of Agriculture to determine if the recreational shell fishing areas have met all the criteria to re-open but as of the time of the meeting he had not heard back from her. He stated the voice message indicates that the areas are still closed. He will report back to the Commission members and request to update the message once he hears back from her.

A discussion was held regarding the requirements that must be met before the recreational shell fishing areas can open for the season including the State mandated testing requirements.

8. New Business

There was nothing to discuss this month under New Business.

9. Old Business

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

Chairman Lawson stated that he has not heard anything further regarding the approval of the budget request regarding the need for additional information so he is hopeful that the budget request will be granted.

- b. Discussions regarding the April 1st re-opening of the recreational shell fishing areas for the 2022 season and restock update;

Chairman Lawson discussed several options for restock this season as there appears to be a shortage again this season. He stated the reason for the shortage is due to demand and the fact that scup are feeding on the little neck clam larvae. The commission members discussed depurating clams in the recreational shell fishing areas that are relocated from the Thames River and closing the areas to depurate the clams for thirty days. This can be done once the water reaches a consistent fifty degrees. This option will ensure that clams will be available for those who purchase a permit to do so. Chairman Lawson stated that the Commission is not allowed to purchase certified little neck clams from out of State but he will continue to look for them in the State of Connecticut and discuss the option for restock throughout the month and report back with any findings.

- c. Discussion regarding progress made to the Waterford Shellfish Plan;

Chairman Lawson indicated that the plan is still not completed but he will keep in touch with the Town Attorney for updates.

- d. Discussion regarding the 2022 Annual Shellfish Gathering;

Chairman Lawson stated that he was unavailable to attend the meeting this year and has nothing to report.

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

There was no one from the public who chose to address the Commission.

11. Adjournment

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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