



Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission



Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 15, 2021
East Lyme Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Members present: Chair Peter Harris, J. Patrick Kelly, Marcia Benvenuti, Larry Tytla, Paul Spakowski, Tom Bowlen, and Eric Kanter

Members absent: Fred Wise

Guests: Ex-officio Dan Cunningham, Chief Warden Chmiel

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and a quorum established. Chair Harris noted the total attendees at 11 people with the room capacity at 32.
- 2) Review and approval of previous meeting minutes:
20 May 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved following a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Spakowski, vote 7-0.
- 3) Review and approval of treasurer's report
Treasurer's report given by Mr. Kelly. Treasurer's report was approved on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla, vote 7-0.
- 4) Chief Warden's Comments : Chief Warden Chmiel gave a report to the commission. New steering cable has been installed on the warden boat. Discussion ensued on the town dock repair plan. Concerns were voiced over how three boats will be able to dock when tide is moving quickly and if there is enough space for 3 boats of that size.
- 5) Old business:
 - a. Update on insurance policies and workers comp (WC) coverage – Mr. Wise was absent and so no update was given.
 - b. Review of accounting firms that could perform our yearly audit. Mr. Kelly reported to the commission that the financial review has started. Mr. Harris reported to the commission the Town of Waterford has approved a financial review would be acceptable in place of a full audit.
 - c. Discussion and potential action on purchase of clam and/or oyster stock. Mr. Wise was absent so Mr. Harris updated the commission on the difficulty obtaining clams and Mr. Wise is continuing to work on this project.
 - d. Discussion on the repair plan of the Waterford town dock continued. Ms. Benvenuti drafted a letter to Waterford requesting a meeting to discuss the repair plan. Mr. Harris will send the letter by e-mail. The commission believes the repair plan is not the most efficient and it is unlikely 3 boats can fit on the main dock. WELSCO believes replacement of the finger dock hardware and possible deck repair would be more cost effective while keeping the current dock configuration in place.
- 6) New Business
Discussion on the best strategy to ensure recreational clam stock is maintained – Mr. Harris opened the discussion describing the need for a long-term plan to ensure clam populations are maintained. A discussion ensued which included opinions that the clam populations change over the years and continually purchasing clams to prevent

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this is not a sustainable option. Limiting over-clamming through permit price adjustments were discussed. No action taken at this time.

- 7) Ex-Officio comments : Ex-Officio Cunningham updated the commission on a recent East Lyme decision to remove PFAS foam fire suppression from the fire department due to certain toxic ingredients. He also discussed the challenge with finding approved programs to spend the Federal Rescue Plan funding allotted to East Lyme.
- 8) Correspondence - none
- 9) Public Comment : none
- 10) Adjournment : Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Bowlen, motion approved 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris