

Waterford-East Lyme Shellfish Commission

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Sep 17, 2020
Virtual meeting held via Zoom, 7:30 pm

Members present: Chair Peter Harris, J. Patrick Kelly, Eric Kanter, Tom Bowlen, Marcia Benvenuti, Larry Tytla, Paul Spakowski, and Fred Wise
Members absent: none
Guests: Tim Londregan

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm and a quorum established.
- 2) Review and approval of previous meeting minutes:
20 Aug 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved following a motion by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Bowlen, vote 8-0.
- 3) Review and approval of treasurer's report
Treasurer's report given by Mr. Kelly. Report approval tabled till next meeting on a motion by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Kanter, vote 8-0.
- 4) Chief Warden's Comments : Mr. Harris gave the Warden's report forwarded to him by Chief Warden Chmiel.
- 5) Old business:
Discussion and potential action on purchase of shellfish stock from Commercial Aquaculture suppliers: Mr. Wise reported back to the Commission on pricing, size, and quantity following additional discussions with multiple commercial shellfish growers. Motion made by Ms. Benvenuti, seconded by Mr. Kelly to purchase \$1500 worth of Topneck clams (\$0.23 each) from Dolan Bros with an additional \$75 delivery charge and \$2000 worth of 2" oysters (approx. 10,000 count) from Niantic Bay Shellfish Farm. Motion approved 8-0.
- 6) New Business
 - a) Discussion and potential action on funding of Save the River/Save the Hills (STR-STH) pump out boat. After much discussion, the commission thought the best course of action would be for STR-STH to meet with each Town's First Selectmen/BoS to request that funding be restored for the pump-out boat directly from each town. WELSCO supports the pump-out boat but feels WELSCO is being asked to pay for this program disproportionately compared to everyone on the Niantic River that benefits from the pump-out boat. WELSCO would like to work with both towns and the other stakeholders to find a viable solution. No motion was made regarding this item.

During this discussion, Chair Harris recognized Tim Londregan of Marker 7 Marina to speak. Mr. Londregan discussed the importance of the pump-out boat and the risk of losing this service.
 - b) Discussion and potential action on 2020-2021 scallop season. Few scallops are being collected inadvertently by clammers. Concerns related to the cost to announce a potential season and the lack of scallops were prominent. No action was taken at this meeting. Decision can be made at the Oct or Nov meeting.

- c) Discussion and potential comments to be supplied to the East Lyme Planning Dept. regarding their 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development for the Town of East Lyme. WELSCO has been asked to submit comments prior to the Nov 10, 2020 public hearing. Some initial ideas were discussed but not finalized.

7) Ex-Officio comments : no comments, Ex-Officio absent

8) Correspondence

Correspondence from DEEP was received by Mr. Harris and forwarded to the commission related to a dock application that was discussed by WELSCO at a previous meeting. No action was needed for this. Also forwarded to the commission by Mr. Harris were e-mails from DA/BA and Save the River Save the Hills related to the pump-out boat agenda item. Also forwarded to the commission by Mr. Harris from the East Lyme Planning Dept was the 2020 PoCD draft discussed in New Business agenda item 3.

9) Public Comment –No public comment.

10) Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm on a motion by Mr. Spakowski, seconded by Mr. Tytla, motion passed 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Harris