MINUTES WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION JANUARY 4, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:
Clarinda Higgins, Chair
Richard Harris
Heather Williams
Matt Dembski (arrived at 6:50)
Jay Grayson (arrived at 6:45)

Staff:

Susan Voris

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director Brendan Fearon, Marine Police

Guests:

Jeff Northrop Tom Ryder, LandTech

The January 4, 2017 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Room 309 of the Westport Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, Connecticut, by Chairman, Clarinda Higgins.

This is to certify that these minutes and resolutions were filed with the Westport Town Clerk within 7 days of the January 4, 2017 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Alicia Mozian	
Conservation Director	

1. Approval of December 7, 2016 meeting minutes.

The November 7, 2016 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion: Higgins Second: Harris

Vote: 3:0:0

2. Treasurer's Report

Rindy read balance into the record as of November 30th.

Susan noted the balance as of 1/04/2017.

3. Police Report

Officer Fearon reported that all boats are out of the water, shrink-wrapped, and winterized. There have been no call outs and no complaints about illegal shellfishing received.

4. Recreational Shellfish Report

12 permits issued so far Tide chart & application form on town website 200 applications will be mailed out by next week

*Jay Grayson arrived at 6:45 p.m. Matt Dembski arrived at 6:50 p.m.

5. New Business

a.49 Beachside Avenue: Application by Tom Ryder of LandTech on behalf of Michael Fallquist to construct a $74 \pm \text{ft}$. long by 4 ft. wide fixed recreational fixed pier with 12 ft. wide by 30 ft. long platform boat lift for access to Long Island Sound.

74' x 4' dock will be built 6ft over the existing concrete revetment. Dock will have a boat lift. In resting state, boat lift will be 20ft in the air, but when in use will be at low tide water elevation. Float stop will prevent it from touching the bottom- would be 18" above benthic. There are 4 electrical motors. Water & electricity will run from the house or the road to the end of the pier. Property is in VE elevation 15'- dock designed to be above that (which is the reason why the pier extends from the top of steps and over concrete revetment. Alicia described reasons why there are no other docks there:

- -wind direction from the east makes for rough waters
- -expansive mudflats
- -close proximity to leased shellfish beds
- -don't want dock to rest on mudflats
- -mooring requests have been denied for these reasons

Jeff Northrop added that there were many docks along Beachside Ave in the 1920s, but bad storms destroyed them.

Susan pointed out dock is within a natural bed.

Tom- ACOE recommends that the platform lift be 18" above the substrate

Rindy – concerned with pile driving during spawning season, as this is a natural bed.

June 1- September 30 should be avoided for pile driving activity.

Tom-lease holders will be notified as well as adjacent property owners

Alicia- ZBA variance for side setbacks will be required

Motion that the activity will not have an adverse impact

Motion: Grayson Second: Dembski Vote 1:4:0 Motion fail

New Motion that the beds will be affected, therefore, construction work should not take place between June 1-Sept 30 due to settling of oyster spat in Restricted Relay area Motion: Higgins

Second: Dembski

Vote: 5:0:0 Motion passes

b. Westport Farmer's Market

Rindy asked for support of Shellfish Commission's presence at the March 11, 2017 Farmer's Market @ Gilberties- Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to -2:00 p.m. This is the last day of the indoor Farmer's Market. March 4th is an alternative date. Commission members expressed their support but carried the item over to the Feb. 1st agenda to let people check their schedules.

c. Discussion of potentially starting a shell/cultch collection program Rindy asked that this item be tabled to a future date.

6. Old Business

a. Update on report of the Seed Oyster Regulation Sub-Committee

Rindy reported that on 12/28/2016 a survey has been sent to all shellfish commissions in the state asking about their seed oyster program and regulations. In addition, she and Alicia will be presenting this issue for discussion at the Gathering of the Shellfish Commissions on January 21st in New Haven. Once the surveys are collected and the meeting takes place, a meeting of the sub-committee will be scheduled. It was suggested that Sam Arciola of the Police Dept and a representative of the Bureau of Aquaculture also participate. Jeff suggested we focus on the method of harvest-restricting it to hand dredging from a boat

7. Other Business

- a. Discussion of a memorial to honor Sergeant Robert Myer
- 8. Public Comment No public comment was received.

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission will be held on February 1, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 309 of Westport Town Hall.

Adjournment:

The Shellfish Commission adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Motion: Higgins Second: Harris

Vote: 5:0:0