

**MINUTES
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION
DECEMBER 7, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

Clarinda Higgins, Chair
Matt Dembski
Richard Harris
Heather Williams

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director
Mark Cooper, Westport/Weston Health Department Director

Guests:

Rachel Precious, Stella Mar Oyster Co.
Steve Schafer, Stella Mar Oyster Co.
Jardar Nygaard, Stella Mar Oyster Co.

The December 7, 2016 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 December 7, 2016 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Alicia Mozian
Conservation Director

b. Discussion of Seed Oyster Permit program and regulations

Ms. Mozian suggested setting up a sub-committee to work on the regulations that would report back and bring ideas to the full Commission for discussion. Ms. Higgins and Mr. Harris agreed to work with this sub-committee. Ms. Voris conveyed that Deputy Chief Sam Arciola has expressed that he would be will to help with this endeavor as well. The Commission expressed its intent to ask for representation and assistance from the Bureau of Aquaculture as well.

Ms. Mozian reviewed the items that the Commission briefly wanted to see looked at as a starting point including:

- Fees;
- Harvest limits;
- Cultch replacement;
- Methodology;
- Size of seed oyster; and
- Definition of seed oyster.

Ms. Higgins discussed the list serve survey of other towns regarding seed oystering that Tessa Getchis of UConn Sea Grant conducted. So far, Ms. Getchis has heard back from Fairfield and Darien. It was suggested that we ask Ms. Getchis if we can give out the survey at the Gathering of Shellfish Commissions on January 21, 2017.

When questioned Greenwich's program, Mr. Nygaard stated they are conducting a study with Greenwich and UConn in Byram studying the setting of oysters of different population and how they interact with each other.

7. Other Business

a. Gathering of Shellfish Commissions, January 21, 2017

Ms. Mozian noted that the Gathering of Shellfish Commissions will be held on January 21, 2017 in New Haven. Mr. Harris, Ms. Higgins and Ms. Williams indicated they wish to attend.

b. Next meeting and 2017 meeting schedule

Ms. Mozian asked if the Commission wished to meet on January 4, 2017 or wanted the meeting postponed to January 11, 2017. The consensus was to meet on January 4, 2017. She confirmed that the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 is still a good meeting night.

c. The Commission discussed a memorial for Sergeant Robert Myer.

d. Ms. Mozian reviewed an e-mail from Kristin DeRosia-Banick of the Bureau of Aquaculture regarding changing the Mill Pond's designation to "Restricted Depuration". She stated she would keep the Commission posted as more information is available.

e. Ms. Mozian noted the Fairfield Shellfish Commission minutes noted approval of a one bushel per week limit for recreational harvest for the 2017 season. It will be enforced using the honor system.

8. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission will be held on January 4, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 309 of Westport Town Hall.

9. Adjournment:

The Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Motion:	Harris	Second:	Williams
Ayes:	Harris, Williams, Dembski, Higgins		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
		Vote:	4:0:0