

**MINUTES  
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION  
JULY 6, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

Clarinda Higgins, Chair  
Matt Dembski  
Leo Cirino  
Jay Grayson  
Richard Harris  
Heather Williams

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director  
Brendan Fearon, Westport Marine Police

The July 6, 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 July 6, 2016 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

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Alicia Mozian  
Conservation Director

**1. Approval of June 1, 2016 meeting minutes.**

The June 1, 2016 meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

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

**2. Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Higgins read the checking account balance ending May 31, 2016 into the record.

Ms. Voris gave the balance of the account as of July 6, 2016.

Mr. Cirino arrived at 6:50 p.m.

**3. Police Report**

Officer Fearon stated it has been a very busy season so far for the Marine Police Division. Calls for service have already surpassed all of last year. However, shellfishing has been quiet up until now because of the water temperature. They have also boarded the commercial boats in an effort to build community relationships and increase familiarity with the boundaries of the lease beds. He has not done the overtime patrols that were scheduled as one was during the transplant and the other was because water temperatures were too cold. He has rescheduled. He noted that some people think that if they have a saltwater fishing permit they are covered for clamming. This should be added to the shellfishing page and the message.

Mr. Dembski arrived at 6:55 p.m.

**4. Recreational Shellfish Report**

Ms. Voris submitted the following report:

The Commission has issued **553 annual recreational permits** as of December 15, 2015.

**424** are renewals and **129** are new permit holders. (76.7% / 23.3%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	<b>335</b>	<b>(\$ 10,050.00)</b>
Senior Resident Permits issued –	<b>200</b>	<b>(\$ 2,910.00)</b>
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	<b>11</b>	<b>(\$ 660.00)</b>
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	<b>8</b>	<b>(\$ 240.00)</b>
Daily Permits issued -	<b>7</b>	<b>(\$ 105.00)</b>

The Commission has collected **\$13,965.00** since December 15, 2015 when we began issuing the 2015 recreational shellfishing permits.

**6** senior permits were issued to people who are 85 and older for free.

Ms. Voris gave an end of fiscal year report. The revenues and number of permits issued were up significantly from fiscal year 2015.

Ms. Voris also distributed an analysis of permits by geographical area that the Commission was looking to see. Westport and Fairfield were the two largest communities with permit holders.

**5. New Business**

- a. Median Reconstruction and Resurfacing of I-95, Norwalk and Westport: Application by the CT Dept. of Transportation for the addition of a) twelve-foot-wide inside shoulders; b) new median barrier to provide a constant 6-foot-wide median barrier section; c) reconstructed joints on Bridge No. 00064, carrying I-95 over the Saugatuck River; and d) new drainage to alleviate flooding issues.**

The Commission discussed the proposal. The bridge work is proposed over a natural bed. There is direct discharge of road salts and sands from the highway to the river from the highway which is not being addressed in this improvement plan. The Commission's comments ask that the DOT spell out the specifics of the sediment and erosion control water quality swale proposed in Norwalk. The Commission's comments included concerns about hydrocarbons, sediment and the Saugatuck River dredging, which is in the planning stages. It was the Commission's decision that this activity would have an adverse impact on the clam beds.

Ms. Mozian and Ms. Higgins are to write a letter to address the Commission's concerns.

Motion that this activity will have an adverse impact on the natural bed of the Saugatuck River.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Dembski</b>	<b>Second:</b>	<b>Harris</b>
<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>Dembski, Harris, Cirino, Grayson, Higgins, Williams</b>		
<b>Nayes:</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	<b>None</b>
		<b>Vote:</b>	<b>6:0:0</b>

**b. CT Sea Grant Strategic Planning**

Ms. Higgins has already responded to the survey. She added to the list of concerns shoreline erosion, preparation for long-term coastal flooding and non-point source pollution from urban runoff. It was the group decision to support Ms. Higgin's submission of the survey as speaking on behalf of the Commission but individuals may respond on their own. Mr. Harris noted that he would.

**c. CT Shellfish Initiative Vision Plan**

The Commission reviewed the questions that came with the CT Shellfish Initiative Vision Plan. Ms. Mozian is going to respond.

**6. Old Business**

**7. Other Business**

**a. Update on June 11, 2016 Fairfield Clamming Day**

Ms. Higgins praised the Fairfield Clamming Day. She told the Commission of its success and the enthusiasm of the participants. The Commission would like to partner with Fairfield at next year's event.

**b. Booth at Westport Farmer's Market**

Ms. Higgins spoke of having a booth at the Westport Farmer's Market for educational purposes on September 29, 2016.

**c. Annual Clambake Preparation**

Ms. Mozian stated she has secured the venue and the caterer for the August 18, 2016 clambake.

**8. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission will be held on August 3, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 309 of Westport Town Hall.

**9. Adjournment:**

The Shellfish Commission adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Grayson</b>	<b>Second:</b>	<b>Dembski</b>
<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>Grayson, Dembski, Cirino, Harris, Higgins, Williams</b>		
<b>Nayes:</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	<b>None</b>
		<b>Vote:</b>	<b>6:0:0</b>