

**MINUTES  
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

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

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director  
Brandan Fearon, Westport Marine Police  
Mark Cooper, Westport/Weston Health Department Director

Guests:

The February 3, 2016 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Room 102 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 February 3, 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 December 2, 2015 meeting minutes.**

The December 2, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Cirino</b>	<b>Second:</b>	<b>Harris</b>
<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>Cirino, Harris, Higgins, Williams</b>		
<b>Nayes:</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	<b>None</b>
		<b>Vote:</b>	<b>4:0:0</b>

**2. Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Higgins read the checking account balance ending December 31, 2015 into the record.

**3. Police Report**

Officer Fearon noted that Norm Bloom is working his beds. There is no enforcement activity at this time. Sergeant Myer will be coming back to the Marine Police division this summer. He plans to aggressively patrol the beds in the spring to show a strong police presence as he did last summer. The new police boat should be coming by May 1, 2016. It will be in the water all year and during the winter will be stationed at Saugatuck Harbor Yacht Club.

**4. Recreational Shellfish Report**

The Commission has issued **198 annual recreational permits** as of December 15, 2015.

**186** are renewals and **12** are new permit holders. (93.9% / 6.1%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	<b>86</b>	<b>(\$ 2,580.00)</b>
Senior Resident Permits issued –	<b>103</b>	<b>(\$ 1,470.00)</b>
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	<b>4</b>	<b>(\$ 240.00)</b>
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	<b>5</b>	<b>(\$ 150.00)</b>
Daily Permits issued -	<b>0</b>	<b>(\$ 0.00)</b>

The Commission has collected **\$4,440.00** since December 29, 2014 when we began issuing the 2015 recreational shellfishing permits.

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

Mr. Grayson noted that it would be good to interview the people who are 85 and older as a human interest story.

**5. New Business**

**a. Report on Gathering of Shellfish Commissions**

Ms. Mozian went through the agenda and gave a brief overview of the reports given at the Gathering of the Shellfish Commissions. She added that the information will be posted shortly on the UConn Seas Grant web-site for all to review. She and Mr. Harris were not able to stay for the presentation on the Vibrio update. However, Mr. Harris reported on the Vibrio handling that the icing of the catch to less than 50° in less an hour on the boat is the protocol.

**b. Agriculture Viability Grant**

Mr. Cooper noted that he received an Agriculture Viability Grant to determine the sources of bacteria based on DNA testing. The testing will be able to distinguish between animal and human DNA and then what species of animals. Phase 1 of the study will be to develop a protocol. Phase 2 is collection and analysis of samples. This is a one year grant. He is working with Branford and Darien as well. The test site in Sasco Brook is just north of the Pequot Avenue bridge in Fairfield. Their testing partners are EarthPlace, Yale and the CT. Ag. Station.

**c. Historical Background of Sherwood Island State Park beach sculpting.**

Ms. Mozian gave a historical background to the Commission on the Sherwood Island State Park beach "sculpting" proposal. She noted that she is working on setting up a joint meeting with the Sherwood Mill Pond Committee to meet with a member of the State Parks Department to discuss the proposal.

In 2010, Sherwood Island State Park approached DEP to do a cut and fill project to cover over rocks and shell at the East and West Beaches. The Shellfish Commission expressed concern that the project would have to be done repeatedly and the sand would end up in Compo Cove and the Mill Pond. In 2013, it was done again without asking for our comments. Now they are asking to do the project again, but this time DEEP is asking for our comments.

**6. Old Business**

**7. Other Business**

- a. Ms. Voris noted the Commission member received updated maps, 2015 Guide to Shellfishing and Memorandum of Understanding in their packets for their binders.
- b. The Commission congratulated Ms. Mozian on 30 years of service to the Town of Westport.

**8. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission will be held on March 2, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 309 of Westport Town Hall.

**9. Adjournment:**

The Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:44 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>