



**TOWN OF WESTPORT**  
**SHELLFISH COMMISSION**  
TOWN HALL - 110 MYRTLE AVENUE  
WESTPORT, CT 06880  
P 203.341.1087 F 203.341.1088

**MINUTES**  
**WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION**  
**MARCH 4, 2020**

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

Heather Williams, Chair  
Jamie Walsh, Vice-Chair  
Sam Arciola  
Jay Grayson, Alternate  
Dick Harris  
Clarinda Higgins, Alternate

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director

Staff:

Susan Voris

Guests:

The March 4, 2020 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 March 4, 2020 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 January 8, 2020 Meeting minutes.

The January 8, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

**Motion: Higgins                                  Second: Harris**  
**Ayes: Higgins, Harris, Arciola, Walsh, Williams**  
**Nayes: None                                  Abstentions:None                                  Vote: 5:0:0**

2. Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Williams read the checking account balance ending January 31, 2020 into the record.

3. Police Report

Officer Fearon was not present and no report was submitted.

Mr. Grayson arrived at 7:42 p.m.

4. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris submitted the following report:

The Commission has issued **199 annual recreational permits** as of March 4, 2020. There were **180** renewals and **19** new permits. (90.5%/9.5%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	<b>84</b>	<b>(\$ 2,520.00)</b>
Senior Resident Permits issued –	<b>110</b>	<b>(\$ 1,560.00)</b>
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	<b>3</b>	<b>(\$ 180.00)</b>
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	<b>2</b>	<b>(\$ 60.00)</b>
Daily Permits issued -	<b>0</b>	<b>(\$ 0.00)</b>

The Commission has collected **\$4,320** since December 26, 2019 when we began issuing the 2020 recreational shellfishing permits.

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

Closures:

Month	Days Open	Days Closed	Total Days
<b>January</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>March</b>			
<b>April</b>			

<b>May</b>						
<b>June</b>						
<b>July</b>						
<b>August</b>						
<b>September</b>						
<b>October</b>						
<b>November</b>						
<b>December</b>						
			<b>60</b>		<b>0</b>	

Ms. Mozian asked to have the agenda amended to discuss two items under new business including:

- Spring transplant; and
- P&Z Text Amendment #775.

Motion carried with full consent of the Commission.

5. New Business

a. Discussion of participation at March 14, 2020 Westport Indoor Farmer’s Market

Ms. Higgins and Mr. Walsh will be manning the table at the Indoor Farmer’s Market. Staff is preparing materials for the day.

b. Review of shellfish related bills proposed in 2020 State Legislative session.

Ms. Higgins stated she met with our legislators, Jonathan Steinberg, Will Haskell and Gail Lavielle for about 1.25 hours on February 26, 2020. During that time, she educated them on the history and importance of the shellfish industry in Connecticut including kelp production and the value of culch. She reviewed documents such as Long Island Sound Council and gave the legislators a copy of her “Raking It In” series.

Ms. Mozian asked Commissioners about interest in the Shellfish Restoration Committee meetings that was sent out by Tessa Getchis. She will be attending. Mr. Harris, Ms. Higgins and Mr. Walsh expressed interest in attending as well. Ms. Wills would be available for future meetings.

c. Review of 2020 Dock Shop Agreement for sale of recreational permits.

Ms. Voris stated she would send agreement to the Dock Shop.

**d. Spring Transplant**

Mr. Harris stated Norm Bloom has indicated last fall's storms have hardened the bottom and now is not the time to do a transplant. It is better to wait until April or May and a softer bottom.

Ms. Voris noted that it is her practice when Mr. Bloom calls and says he has a boat available, she will file the necessary paperwork for the transplant without gaining permission from the Commission first. She and Mr. Bloom look at the tides and holiday schedule to make sure the guaranteed three-week closure is not going to impact a major holiday weekend. She knows that it is the Commission's goal to have a transplant done during the year. She would like the Commission's permission to continue this practice.

It was the sense of the Commission to allow staff to initiate a transplant.

**e. P&Z Text Amendment #775**

The Commission discussed the text amendment related to beaches and dunes. A "dune" will have to be planted. "Beach nourishment" does not allow for bringing in sand. It would eliminate vertical walls in favor of rocks with sand and plantings.

The Commission requested that they be allowed to weigh in on dune creation projects during a CAM Site Plan application process and requested that the Planning & Zoning Commission not act on the application until said comments are received. The reason being is because sediment coming off the beaches is shown to cause detriment to the shellfish beds.

The Commission believed that the text amendment needs to add a definition of "beach nourishment" and distinguish what the difference is from "beach replenishment". They asked that the Planning & Zoning Commission continue the hearing to define these terms or that a separate, future text amendment be proposed that adds these definitions.

**6. Old Business**

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

Commissioners who attended the Gathering gave highlights of the presentations.

**b. Shellfish signage**

This agenda item was tabled.

**c. Railroad Bridge Cable Crossing Project update by Dick Harris**

Mr. Harris noted the Commission reviewed the railroad bridge cable crossing project as part of the DOT's submission to the CT DEEP for a permit. While the work was in progress, he was able to take samples from three locations while the cable was being put down and while they were backfilling the trench. Pace Industry in Green Bay, WI analyzed the samples for

- Arsenic – ND (non-detectable),
- Cadmium - ND,
- Chromium – 20.9,
- Copper – 50.8,
- Lead - 114,
- Nickel – 8.8,
- Zinc – 89.3, and
- Mercury

at the start of work.

Afterwards levels were either ND or less than 4 mg/kg.

Mr. Harris noted he was very pleased with how the work was performed and the contractor appears to have complied with all they said they would do.

**7. Other Business**

- a.** Ms. Mozian noted the Fairfield Shellfish Commission minutes discussed collaboration with Westport.

Ms. Williams indicated we might be able to collaborate with them in the Southport Beach area. Another area that is of interest would be a joint clam clinic.

The March 4, 2020 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Motion: Williams Second: Walsh**  
**Ayes: William, Walsh, Arciola, Grayson, Harris, Higgins**  
**Nayes: None Abstentions:None Vote: 6:0:0**