



TOWN OF WESTPORT
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
TOWN HALL - 110 MYRTLE AVENUE
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MINUTES
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION
JUNE 3, 2020

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:
Heather Williams, Chair
Jamie Walsh, Vice-Chair
Dick Harris
Clarinda Higgins, Alternate

Ex-Officios:
Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director
Brendan Fearon, Marine Police

Staff:
Susan Voris, Admin. Asst.

The June 3, 2020 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom, by Chair, Heather Williams.

This is to certify that these minutes and resolutions were filed with the Westport Town Clerk within 7 days of the June 3, 2020 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Alicia Mozian
Conservation Director

1. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Williams read the checking account balance as of April 30, 2020 into the record.

Ms. Higgins asked what the deposits were from.

Ms. Voris stated all deposits were from regular permit sales through the office.

2. Police Report

Officer Fearon reported there has not been a lot of activity on the recreational beds. Some clammers were out on Cockenoe Flats west of Cedar Point during the closure but the catch was returned. Also, they have found people over by Hendrick's Point, which is a closed area. All contacts have had permits. The water temperature is still only about 58°.

Ms. Higgins noted that more signage is needed.

Officer Fearon indicated that more signage at Hendrick's Point is his intent.

Ms. Higgins asked about opening Canal Beach.

Staff indicated that we have been asking for an update from Parks and Recreation for a status report.

Officer Fearon will follow-up.

3. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris submitted the following report to the Commission:

The Commission has issued **297 annual recreational permits** as of May 28, 2020. There were **248** renewals and **49** new permits. (83.5%/16.5%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	148	(\$ 4,410.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	140	(\$ 1,995.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	5	(\$ 300.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	4	(\$ 120.00)
Daily Permits issued -	0	(\$ 0.00)

The Commission has collected **\$6,825.00** since December 26, 2019 when we began issuing the 2020 recreational shellfishing permits.

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

Closures:

Month		Days Open		Days Closed		Total Days
January		31		0		31
February		29		0		29
March		31		0		31
April		17		13		30

May		2		26		28
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
		110		39		149

Notes:

Closure Events

4/13/20 - > 1.5"

4/27/20 - transplant - water temp 45 degrees

I just heard The Dock Shop is back in business. They had not taken any permits from us and our agreement was not signed. The only way to get a recreational shellfish permit at this time is by mail. Once mail is received, the Town of Westport is quarantining mail for at least 36 hours before distributing it to the appropriate departments. Staff is sending permits out the day we receive them. If a person plans to go out over the weekend, we have scanned a copy of their permit to them so they have a copy for the weekend. I will attempt to contact The Dock Shop and see if we can get our agreement with them signed and have them selling permits. This is something our shellfishermen would like to see.

Permit sales in May were down. We sold 38 permits in May as of this writing. That is about 15 less than we sold at this time last year. We could say that the transplant affected our sales. The closure of the Canal Beach parking area is going to be a deterrent as well.

Canal Beach parking remains closed. That area was becoming a hangout and by necessity was closed to maintain social distancing. Access to Cockenoe Flats is only by boat unless you live on Saugatuck Shores, then you can of course walk out. How long this closure will remain in place has been undetermined.

We had a successful transplant. Norm Bloom and crew were able to transplant 912 bushels of clams. He completed the transplant on May 5, 2020. Though we hoped to reopen in time for Memorial Day weekend that was not the case. There was a communication error and we reopened on May 27, 2020.

Ms. Voris added that she is working with the shellfishermen and will issue permits same day if a person calls the office and makes an appointment. She will meet them at the rear of the building to take the application and permit fee and process and return the new permit to the applicant.

4. New Business

a. Discussion of Marine Police Overtime for patrol of shellfish beds

Officer Fearon discussed seven proposed dates for overtime for patrol of the recreational shellfish beds. There is a possibility of some evening shifts of 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. as well as

morning shifts. His officers are going out during the normal Marine Police hours during low tide to check the beds. There has not been a lot of activity. The officers are now going back to keeping a log of the contacts they have with the shellfishermen complete with permit number, date of contact and type of infractions.

The Commission discussed the days of the overtime patrols.

Ms. Mozian suggested that the Commission allow a total of 10 overtime patrols to allow for patrols to go later into the season. Those additional dates and any rain dates would be chosen at Officer Fearon's discretion.

Motion to allow a total of 10 overtime patrols.

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

The June 3, 2020 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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