

SHELLFISH COMMISSION

TOWN HALL - 110 MYRTLE AVENUE WESTPORT, CT 06880 P 203.341.1087 F 203.341.1088

MINUTES WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION MAY 5, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

Heather Williams, Chair Jamie Walsh, Vice-Chair Matt Dembski Dick Harris Clarinda Higgins, Alternate

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director

Susan Voris, Admin Asst. II

The May 5, 2021 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, by Chairman, Heather Williams.

This is to certify that these minutes and resolutions were filed with the Westport Town Clerk within 7 days of the May 5, 2021 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Alicia Mozian **Conservation Director**

1. Approval of the December 2, 2020 minutes.

The December 2, 2020 minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion: Walsh Second: Higgins

Ayes: Walsh, Higgins, Harris, Williams

Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 4:0:0

2. Approval of the March 3, 2021 minutes.

The March 3, 2021 minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion: Higgins Second: Walsh

Ayes: Higgins, Walsh, Harris, Williams

Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 4:0:0

3. Treasurers Report

Ms. Williams read the balance of the checking account into the record as of March 31, 2021.

4. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris submitted the following report:

The Commission has issued **348 annual recreational permits** as of April 30, 2021. There were **272** renewals and **76** new permits. (78.2%/21.8%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	180	(\$	5,370.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	154	(\$	2,205.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	11	(\$	660.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	3	(\$	90.00)
Daily Permits issued -	0	(\$	0.00)

The Commission has collected **\$8,325.00** since December 30, 2020 when we began issuing the 2021 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
January	31	0	31
February	28	0	28
March	31	0	31
April	30	0	30
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			

November			
December			
	120	0	120

Notes:

Closure Events

As you can see, we have a great number of new permit holders. Some are permit holders that did not renew last year but a vast majority are new to our program. If we were to do a comparison of where we are today from this year to last year in the calendar year, we have sold 348 permits this year compared to 253 permits last year. For the fiscal year, we are 52 permits from meeting the same number of permits issued in all of last year and have two months to go. Our average monthly permit sales so far this year is 87.

I've spoken with Norm Bloom about a transplant. He indicated that a transplant will be taking place soon. I am waiting to hear from him and will submit paperwork to the Bureau of Aquaculture.

5. Police Report

Officer Fearon was unable to join the meeting.

Ms. Voris reported all boats are in the water and available for marine emergencies. The Marine Unit will be open in time for Memorial Day weekend.

a. Discussion of Marine Police overtime for patrol of recreational shellfish beds

The Commission reviewed and discussed the potential overtime dates Officer Fearon submitted. There was a concern with the time of day especially weekday mornings. The Commission felt that there is more activity on the recreational beds during the late afternoon to evening hours. The Commission noted that shellfishing continues into October and questioned whether enforcement could continue after Labor Day even though the Marine Division is officially closed.

Ms. Voris and Ms. Mozian reminded the Commission that the Marine Division does patrol the recreational beds during low tide during the regular hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. as part of their regular duties as time allows.

The Commission indicated they would like to continue this discussion to allow Officer Fearon to be available to participate in the discussion to integrate more times during the evenings in July, August and September.

Ms. Voris asked that the Commission allow the June dates so that Officer Fearon could schedule personnel for those dates.

Ms. Higgins noted that it is so cool and the season is starting off slow, the Commission should only grant two dates.

The Commission approved Sunday, June 13, 2021 and Saturday, June 26, 2021 for overtime patrols.

Motion: Walsh Second: Williams

Ayes: Walsh, Williams, Harris, Higgins

Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 4:0:0

6. New Business

7. Old Business

a. 263 Riverside Avenue: Review and comment on revised dock plans for resubmission to CT DEEP.

Catherine Calise presented the application on behalf of the property owner.

Ms. Mozian reminded the Commission of what was previously reviewed and the comments given. The previous plan was for a 60-foot extension into the Saugatuck River and the float was 90 feet long.

Ms. Calise stated the revised plan proposes a gangway is 30 feet long connected to a 5-foot by 40-foot long dock so it will not encroach into the river nearly as far. Mushroom anchors will hold the dock in place. Air Pillars will act as float stops. The mushroom anchors will eliminate the need for pilings. If pilings are needed, then they will still be hand driven. The dock will be pre-made and brought in by truck. This is a private dock for public transient use.

Motion to support the plan amendment dated March 31, 2021 for the proposed dock. A finding of not a significant impact to the natural beds was made.

Motion: Higgins Second: Walsh

Ayes: Higgins, Walsh, Williams, Harris

Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 4:0:0

8. Other Business

a. Canal Beach and Hendrick's Point clean-up

Ms. Higgins did the Canal Beach clean-up. She reported she collected approximately ¾ of a bag of garbage.

The Hendrick's Point clean-up is taking place on May 6, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. with Ms. Williams, Mr. Walsh and Mr. Harris participating.

Ms. Williams noted that the "No Shellfishing" sign needs to be replaced.

Ms. Mozian will look into getting the sign and Mr. Walsh will take on installing the sign.

Commission members noted that a "No Littering" sign should be installed in the area.

The May 5, 2021 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Motion: Williams Second: Walsh

Ayes: Williams, Walsh, Harris, Higgins

Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 4:0:0