

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

# MINUTES WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION DECEMBER 1, 2021

# ATTENDANCE

Commission Members: Heather Williams, Chair Jay Grayson, Alternate Dick Harris Clarinda Higgins, Alternate

<u>Ex-Officios:</u> Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director Brendan Fearon, Westport Marine Police

<u>Staff:</u> Susan Voris

<u>Guests:</u> Jeff Northrop Matt Murray Tom Stanford

The December 1, 2021 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission was called to order at 6:30 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 December 1, 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 November 3, 2021 minutes.

The November 3, 2021 minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion:	Higgins		Second:	Harris	
Ayes:	Higgins, Harr	is, Williams			
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None	Vote: 3:0:	:0

- 2. Old Business
  - a. Update by staff re: Sherwood Mill Pond: Application to CT Dept. of Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture by Jonathan Goldstein on behalf of Haslea, Inc. for a proposed aquaculture project. This application to the State was withdrawn by the applicant.

Ms. Mozian reviewed the letter dated November 4, 2021 to the Bureau of Aquaculture based on resolutions and discussion of the November 3, 2021 hearing. She noted subsequently the Haslea application was withdrawn for the expanded gear application. Mr. Northrup does have permits for the gear that was seen being removed from the Pond and does have the right to farm the bottom of the Pond.

Mr. Grayson arrived at 6:40 p.m.

- 3. Police Report
  - **a.** Update on crabbing activity within the Sherwood Mill Pond.

Sgt. Fearon stated crabbing is now closed for the season as of November 30<sup>th</sup>. He has been in contact with CT DEEP. He and EnConn will be devising a plan to address what the crabbers can and cannot do within the Pond. In the meantime, if any crabbing activity is seen, let the Police Department know. He stated there are many new officers that may not be familiar with marine law so they will need to get up to speed. He stated the intent for next season is to provide enforcement by both agencies – local police and the CT DEEP Police.

Sgt. Fearon reported that with regard to parking, there has been discussion with the Police Department to change the parking signs along Hillspoint Road from limiting parking from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from May 1 to September 30 to just say "No Parking" unless you have a beach sticker. This is being done in hopes of deterring parking along Hillspoint Road at night, which would in turn limit access to the Mill Pond by crabbers. This will need approval from the Town Parking Authority.

Ms. Mozian added she has heard that an ordinance will be introduced that would ban crabbing in the Mill Pond at night, but she is unsure who will be spear heading that effort.

4. Treasurers Report

Ms. Williams read the Treasurer's Report ending October 31, 2021 into the record.

### 5. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris stated there was no updated report for December sent to the Commission as there were no permits issued. The only change in the report was the number of closure dates. She highlighted the report as follows:

The Commission has issued **582 annual recreational permits** as of October 25, 2021. There were **361** renewals and **221** new permits. (62%/38%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	344	(\$1	10.290.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	217	(\$	3,120.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	16	(\$	960.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	5	(\$	150.00)
Daily Permits issued -	4	(\$	60.00)

9 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	10	21	31
June	24	6	30
July	7	24	31
August	31	0	31
September	8	22	30
October	24	7	31
November	25	5	30
December			
	249	85	334

Notes:

### **Closure Events**

5/10 -5/12 Transplant - 300 bushels 5/28 & 5/29 - 2.5" rainfall 7/2 - 2.9" rainfall 7/8, 7/9 - 6.4" rainfall 9/2 - > 4" rainfall 9/24 - 2" rainfall 10/26 - > 3" rainfall

## 6. New Business

a. Review of 2022 recreational season renewal materials

Ms. Voris reviewed the renewal letter to shellfishers as revised by Ms. Higgins and the tide chart for the 2022 season. She stated staff is ready to order the permits.

The sense of the Commission was that everything was now in place to allow staff to move forward preparing to send out renewals.

## 7. Other Business

a. Gathering of the Shellfish Commissions

Ms. Mozian noted this year's meeting is being held on January 22, 2022 in New Haven in person. Commissioners Williams, Higgins and Harris indicated they will be attending. Staff will contact others.

The December 1, 2021 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Motion:	Higgin	S	Second:	Harris
Ayes:	Higgin	s, Harris, Grayson, William		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions: None	Vote:	4:0:0