

MINUTES WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION MARCH 2, 2022

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

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director

Staff:

Susan Voris

Guests:

Jeff Northrop

The March 2, 2022 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 March 2, 2022 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 1, 2021 minutes.

The December 1, 2021 minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion: Harris Second: Williams

Ayes: Harris, Williams

Nayes: None Abstentions: Walsh Vote: 2:0:1

2. Police Report

There was no Police Report.

3. Treasurers Report

Ms. Williams read the checking account balance as of January 31, 2022 into the record.

4. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris submitted the following report:

The Commission has issued **168 annual recreational permits** as of February 28, 2022. There were **151** renewals and **17** new permits. (89.9%/10.1%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	67	(\$	1,980.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	96	(\$	1,380.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	3	(\$	180.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	2	(\$	60.00)
Daily Permits issued -		(\$	0.00)

The Commission has collected **\$3,600.00** since December 20, 2021 when we began issuing the 2022 recreational shellfishing permits.

4 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			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
	59	0	59

Ms. Voris noted that the e-mail blast for renewals to previous permit holders had a computer error. It was recently corrected and resent. She reported more permits applications are now starting to come in.

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a. Review of Annual Report

Ms. Voris reviewed the highlights of the 2021 Annual Report including the income and expenditures. A net surplus was realized. She reviewed the permit holders by city and noted the top four communities receiving recreational permits, in order from high to low, are Westport, Fairfield, Norwalk and Shelton.

- 5. New Business None
- 6. Old Business None
- 7. Other Business
 - **a.** Update on Mitten Crabs and new non-native species of crabs.

Mr. Harris noted there were an additional 3 Mitten Crabs pulled out of the Housatonic River this past week. He reported that Rock Pool Shrimp, an invasive species native to Europe, were also found.

b. Discussion of clean-up on the Saugatuck River and April 9, 2022 Beautification Day efforts.

Ms. Mozian noted that Beautification Day is April 9, 2022. She has spoken with Commissioner, Rindy Higgins, who will take on the clean-up of Canal Beach as this is close to her home. Last year, members of the Commission added a clean-up of Hendrick's Point. Ms. Williams, Mr. Harris and Mr. Walsh indicated they were interested in this clean-up. There was discussion about doing a more regular clean-up at Hendrick's Point throughout the year.

Ms. Williams suggested the idea of creating an "Adopt a Spot" that is focused on the concept of garbage pickup.

Ms. Mozian said she would relay the idea to the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Commission noted the need to follow-up on posting the "No Shellfihing" signage at Hendrick's Point and the marinas.

c. Update on Hillspoint Road and Mill Pond Preserve parking restrictions

Ms. Mozian reported the Town has had a meeting with Mr. Northrop and his attorney and are in preliminary stages of working something out regarding use of The Preserve at 191 Hillspoint Road. As of now, there is no new information to report on changing the parking requirements on Hillspoint Road from what was discussed at the December meeting.

- d. Ms. Mozian reported to the Commission on Bill 5140 going through the General Assembly relating to Horseshoe Crabs that would prohibit the hand harvesting of horseshoe crabs and eggs except with permission from the State for educational, scientific or medical purposes.
- **e.** Ms. Mozian noted that we have permission to have remote meeting at this time but it is expected that all Commissions will be back in person by May.

There was a discussion about meeting start time and it was decided that the start time would remain at 6:30 p.m.

All members agreed that they are willing to meet in-person.

f. Mr. Northrop asked if a Dissolved Oxygen meter was purchased.

Ms. Mozian stated yes. The Conservation Department purchased one and that they still need to establish test sites with Mr. Northrop and Sarah Crosby from HarborWatch.

The March 2, 2022 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Motion: Harris Second: Walsh

Ayes: Harris, Walsh, Williams