



SHELLFISH COMMISSION
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WESTPORT™

**MINUTES
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MAY 4, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

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

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director
Brendan Fearon, Westport Marine Police

Staff:

Susan Voris, Admin Asst. II

Guests:

John Hilts

The May 4, 2022 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 4, 2022 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Alicia Mozian
Conservation Director

1. New Business

- a. **17 Wakeman Place:** Request by John Hilts for review and comment of proposal to construct a 4' by 25' timber ramp, 4' by 99' piling-supported timber pier, 3' by 40' aluminum ramp, 6' by 5' ramp landing float, and 7' by 14' timber floating dock for a private recreational boating as part of permit application to CT DEEP.

John Hilts presented the application on behalf of the property owner, Greg Naughton. He stated that after the initial review with CT DEEP, the dock was moved from the southern section of the property to the north. The angle of the dock is to keep it more in the float more in the center of the property. This also provides better visibility from the house. The previous owner received a zoning variance for the concrete walkway to the south. Mr. Hilts noted the properties to the south on Imperial Landing have deed restrictions over the marsh that prevent a dock from being constructed. Mr. Hilts acknowledged there is a buoy float in close proximity to the proposed dock but the Harbormaster said the float could be moved. Mr. Hilts is not sure who the float belongs to.

Ms. Mozian noted the proposed dock is located in the area classified as "Prohibited" but there is still some shellfish growth near the embankment. She asked how the impact to the tidal wetland vegetation and spartina will be minimized.

Mr. Hilts stated the pile driving is localized. There are 10 pilings within the vegetated area and the area should revegetate. They chose this area because it is the area with the least width of spartina.

Ms. Mozian asked about how they will access the dock due to the steep slope on the property.

Mr. Hilts indicated the access to the ramp will likely be across the top of the embankment from the existing walkway to the south.

Ms. Higgins asked what the minimum height requirement is to allow people to walk under a pier.

Mr. Hilts stated it is 68 inches measured at mean high water.

Sgt. Fearon noted that regarding navigation he sees no issues with the length of the proposed dock. The swim float was authorized by the Harbormaster. With regard to the proposed dredging in the Saugatuck River, Sgt. Fearon cautioned that the owners should schedule the installation of the dock around the dredging project.

Ms. Mozian asked how the work will be conducted.

Mr. Hilts stated that the more waterward pilings will be installed by barge. The four pilings closer to the land may have to be installed by land and could be replaced with helicals.

Ms. Higgins asked about the protections for storm surge.

Mr. Hilts stated the float will be high and will have three pilings to secure it.

Ms. Mozian asked if there are float stops.

Mr. Hilts stated float stops are not necessary as the float will be 28 inches above the substrate. The float could be removed during the winter.

Ms. Mozian asked about the timing.

Mr. Hilts stated that by the time they finish the permitting process, it would most likely be May 2023 at the earliest.

