



**SHELLFISH COMMISSION**  
TOWN HALL – 110 MYRTLE AVENUE  
WESTPORT, CT 06880  
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**WESTPORT™**

**MINUTES  
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 2, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE**

Commission Members:

Heather Williams, Chair  
Jamie Walsh, Vice-Chair  
Dick Harris  
Clarinda Higgins, Alternate  
Barry Lytton  
Scott Reichhelm

Ex-Officios:

Colin Kelly, Conservation Director

Staff:

Susan Voris, Admin. Asst. II

Guests:

Tom Ryder, Environmental Scientist, LandTech  
Rachel Precious  
Matt Murray

The November 2, 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 November 2, 2022 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

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Colin Kelly  
Conservation Director

1. New Business

- a. **259 Riverside Avenue (a.k.a 251, 253 & 257 Riverside Avenue):** Review by the Commission for comments for a proposal to construct a private dock accessed from a parking lot on a commercial parking lot. The proposed dock will consist of a 19.5' long by 4' wide fixed pier, a 31' long by 3' wide ramp and a 7' by 14' float with a 2' X 5' landing float.

Tom Ryder of LandTech presented the application on behalf of the property owner. The property consists of three commercial buildings. He stated there used to be a boat house on the property and this is the proposed location for the dock. This will be a single dock and they are going for a low profile. There are 8 total piles with four supporting the pier and four supporting the float. Mr. Ryder addressed the proposed dock at the neighboring property that has not yet been built but has received a Draft Certificate of Permission.

The Commission and Mr. Ryder discussed that this dock will be for private use. The storm protection is that the dock is located above the Coastal Jurisdiction Line (CJL) and 4 piles supporting both the pier and the float. During a flooding event that over tops the seawall, the dock will also be flooded. Mr. Ryder explained what a float skid is and noted the devise will keep the float from resting on the bottom by 18 inches. The removal of the relic piers from the old boat house are traditionally allowed to be removed using a saw to cut off below grade and allowing to silt in. However, this is a discussion they will have with the DEEP during the permitting process.

The Commission found:

The dock would not have an impact on the shellfish resources and is located in a natural bed. The Commission determined that the construction of the dock should avoid the spawning season. Work should be completed between the months of October to May.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Walsh</b>	<b>Second:</b>	<b>Higgins</b>
<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>Walsh, Higgins, Harris, Lytton, Reichhelm, Williams</b>		
<b>Nays:</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	<b>None</b>
		<b>Vote:</b>	<b>6:0:0</b>

2. Approval of the October 3, 2022 minutes.

The October 3, 2022 minutes were approved as submitted.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Walsh</b>	<b>Second:</b>	<b>Higgins</b>
<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>Walsh, Higgins, Harris, Lytton, Reichhelm, Williams</b>		
<b>Nays:</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	<b>None</b>
		<b>Vote:</b>	<b>6:0:0</b>

3. Police Report

Cpl. Fearon was not present and there was no report.

4. Treasurers Report

Ms. Williams read checking account balance ending September 30, 2022 into the record.

5. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris stated there was no formal report for this month. There have been no new recreational permits issued. There were 19 closure days in October. There was one Seed Oyster permit issued at the end of September or early October.

The Commission and staff discussed the hotline. Staff is going to look into updating the website to include opening and closure information.

6. Old Business

a. Follow-up discussion on shell recycling

The Commission and staff reviewed correspondence from Fairfield related to the shell recycling program. The Whelk and La Plage did participate previously in shell recycling.

Ms. Precious noted that having worked in the restaurant's participation will occur only if it is easy. If sorting is required, it would not happen. Fairfield is taking any shell. She questioned why, Copp's Island only wants their shell back.

Mr. Harris stated many of the oystermen remember years back when Dermo killed off the oysters. They believe it occurred when they brought in intra-state shell.

Mr. Kelly highlighted the flyers Fairfield has put out regarding the shell recycling and noted that it can be placed on the website. He discussed a possible press release supporting this effort.

Suggestions were made that the flyer also be shared with Sustainable Westport and possible placement at the dump near the food recycling area.

Mr. Lytton offered help with writing the press release.

Staff will help in initiating contact between Mr. Walsh and members of Fairfield Shellfish Commission for input on contacting restaurants.

7. Other Business - **None**

The November 2, 2022 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Williams</b>	<b>Second:</b>	<b>Higgins</b>
<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>Williams, Higgins, Harris, Lytton, Reichhelm, Walsh</b>		
<b>Nays:</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Abstentions:</b>	<b>None</b>
		<b>Vote:</b>	<b>6:0:0</b>