



WESTPORT™

SHELLFISH COMMISSION
TOWN HALL – 110 MYRTLE AVENUE
WESTPORT, CT 06880
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**MINUTES
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

Heather Williams, Chair
Jamie Walsh, Vice-Chair
Dick Harris
Barry Lytton

Ex-Officios:

Colin Kelly, Conservation Director

Staff:

Susan Voris, Admin. Asst. III

Guests:

Nikki Spiller, Director of HarborWatch

The DATE meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Room 309 of the Westport Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, Connecticut, 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 DATE meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Colin Kelly
Conservation Director

1. New Business

- a. Discussion with Nikki Spiller of HarborWatch regarding potential partnership for water quality monitoring.

Ms. Spiller thanked the Commission for the opportunity to discuss funding opportunities for HarborWatch. She had outlined potential resources but asked the Commission if there were goals that they were looking to pursue.

Ms. Voris explained that one opportunity the Commission has discussed is looking at New Creek. The outlet is Burying Hill Beach. Burying Hill Beach has been closed for at least 22 years that she has worked for the Town of Westport to recreational shellfishing. Some of the commercial beds off that area have been upgraded to Conditionally Approved over the years. She indicated that in speaking with the Bureau of Aquaculture there is a concern with the septic system at Greens Farms Academy and the Commission would like to see what is happening on the creek.

Ms. Spiller noted there is some off season testing that has been done as a part of an educational component with students for New Creek from September to April. Her testing would not be used to reopen the shellfish beds but could be used for track down.

The Commission and Ms. Spiller reviewed the testing sites that have been used in the past and potential other testing sites.

Motion to designate \$7,500.00 for water quality monitoring in New Creek.

Motion:	Walsh	Second:	Harris
Ayes:	Walsh, Harris, Lytton, Williams		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
		Vote:	4:0:

2. Approval of the December 7, 2022 minutes.

The December 7, 2022 minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion:	Harris	Second:	Walsh
Ayes:	Harris, Walsh, Lytton, Williams		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
		Vote:	4:0:0

3. Police Report – **None**

4. Treasurers Report

Ms. Williams read the checking account balance ending December 31, 2022 into the record.

5. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris submitted the following report for the 2023 recreational season:

**Report on 2023 Recreational Shellfish Program
February 1, 2023
Submitted by Susan Voris, Secretary to Shellfish Commission**

We have issued **141 annual recreational permits** as of January 31, 2023. There were renewals and new permits. (%/ %)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	53	(\$ 1,560.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	76	(\$ 1,140.00)

Adult Non-resident Permits issued – 9 (\$ 540.00)
 Senior Non-resident Permits issued – 3 (\$ 90.00)
 Daily Permits issued - 0 (\$ 0.00)

The Commission has collected **\$3,330.00** since December 20, 2022 when we began issuing the 2023 recreational shellfishing permits.

0 senior permits were issued to people who are 85 and older for free.

Month	Days Open	Days Closed	Total Days
January	25	6	31
February			
March			
April			
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
	25	6	31

Notes:

Closure Events

1/26 - rainfall > 1.5"

- 6. Annual Meeting
 - a. Annual Report for the 2022 recreational season

The Commission has issued **553 annual recreational permits** as of December 31, 2022. There were **377** renewals and **176** new permits. (68.2%/31.8%)

Adult Resident Permits issued – 302 (\$ 9,030.00)
 Senior Resident Permits issued – 226 (\$ 3,285.00)
 Adult Non-resident Permits issued – 17 (\$ 1,020.00)
 Senior Non-resident Permits issued – 8 (\$ 240.00)
 Daily Permits issued - 16 (\$ 240.00)

The Commission has collected **\$13,815.00** since December 20, 2021 when we began issuing the 2022 recreational shellfishing permits.

7 senior permits were issued to people who are 85 and older for free.

The number of closure days for 2022:

Month	Days Open	Days Closed	Total Days
January	31	0	31
February	28	0	28
March	31	0	31
April	30	0	30
May	14	17	31
June	27	3	30
July	20	11	31
August	31	0	31
September	14	16	30
October	12	19	31
November	30	0	30
December	22	9	31
	290	75	365

Notes:

Closure Events

- 5/10/22 - Transplant
- 6/15/22 - sewage by-pass from Norwalk
- 7/18/22 - rainfall event 2.94"
- 9/6/22 - rainfall event 2.85 "
- 9/13/22 - rainfall event 1.72"
- 10/5/22 - rainfall event 1.6"
- 10/14/22 - rainfall event > 1.5"
- 12/7/22 - rainfall event > 1.5"
- 12/7/22 - diesel spill into Saugatuck at STP

INCOME & EXPENSES 2022

TOTAL INCOME	\$13,845.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,408.65
EDUCATION	\$125.00
ADVERTISING	\$61.26
POSTAGE	\$160.21
SALARIES	\$11,462.09
SUPPLIES	\$600.09
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,436.35

b. Election of Officers

Ms. Williams opened the floor for election of officers.

Motion to nominate Jamie Walsh as Chair.

Motion:	Williams	Second:	Harris
Ayes:	Williams, Harris, Lytton, Walsh		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
			Vote: 4:0:0

Motion to nominate Barry Lytton as Vice-Chair.

Motion:	Walsh	Second:	Williams
Ayes:	Walsh, Williams, Harris, Lytton		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
			Vote: 4:0:0

7. Old Business

a. Follow-up on the Gathering of Shellfish Commissions

Mr. Kelly and Ms. Voris noted information shared from the ListServe will be added to the Shellfish website.

b. Follow-up discussion on shell recycling

Mr. Walsh noted that based on the 5 models that were discussed sent out from Tessa Getchis as part of the presentation at the Gathering, none of these will work for Westport. He stated he has had discussions with the owner of Hudson and Malone about interest in the program. It would be a hard sell. The moment that there was an issue, he would be out. Mr. Walsh indicated that this is a friend.

The Commission discussed what could be done. Currently, Public Works is not willing to add to it's tasks within the dump site and the food recycling area.

It was suggested that we reach out to Sustainable Westport for ideas as they are spearheading the food recycling.

8. Next Steps

Mr. Kelly stated staff will be meeting with members of Sustainable Westport in the coming week. At that meeting, shell recycling can be brought up.

The Commission stated they would welcome an opportunity to have a discussion if there is any interest.

9. Other Business

a. Mr. Harris stated that a female Mitten Crab has been found in the Housatonic River. It was close to spawning. There is concern that there will be small Mitten Crabs in the Housatonic River this coming year.

b. Mr. Harris noted the discussion on PFAS at the Gathering. He is doing a study of the impacts of PFOS from synthetic fields and noted the long term impacts.

Mr. Harris discussed core samples taken in the Norwalk Harbor that showed high pesticide levels. He took independent samples and sent them out for testing for neonicotinoids to Cornell University. These tests should be back in 4 to 6 weeks.

