



SHELLFISH COMMISSION
TOWN HALL – 110 MYRTLE AVENUE
WESTPORT, CT 06880
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MINUTES
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MAY 3, 2023

Members Present: Jamie Walsh, Chair; Barry Lytton, Vice Chair; Dick Harris; Rindy Higgins, Alternate; Heather Williams, Alternate

Ex-Officios: Colin Kelly, Conservation Director

1. New Business

- a.** Review and discussion for consultation to DEEP on Cedar Point Yacht Club, 1 Bluff Point, for proposed dredging over an area of 2,427 s.f. and relocation of dredge materials in the amount of 875 c.y. to on-site pocket beach system.

Suzy Bradford, EIT with Race Coastal Engineering, presented the application for a proposed dredging and beach nourishment. There was a maintenance dredge in 2005. Work will be from the land. The dredge materials will be brought on land and transported across the site to be relocated onto the beach areas on the other side of the property. Materials will be offset from the vegetation by 5 feet.

Mr. Harris asked about testing the dredge materials for pollutants.

Ms. Higgins asked about the timing of the work.

The Commission discussed the following recommendations:

- Activity should take place outside spawning season (May through September);
- Would like to see evidence or statement from CT DEEP regarding the conditions of the sediments with regards to metals, solvents, and pesticides in the transported materials.

The project will not adversely impact a shellfish area.

Motion:	Harris	Second:	Lytton
Ayes:	Harris, Lytton, Higgins, Walsh, Williams		
Nays:	None	Abstentions:	None
			Vote: 5:0:0

2. Approval of the February 1, 2023 minutes.

The February 1, 2023 minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Motion:	Higgins	Second:	Walsh
Ayes:	Higgins, Walsh, Lytton, Williams		
Nays:	None	Abstentions:	Harris
			Vote: 5:0:0

3. Police Report

- a.** Discussion of potential overtime for shellfish enforcement.

Cpl. Fearon was not present. The above discussions were postponed to the next meeting.

4. Treasurers Report

Mr. Walsh read the checking account statement ending March 31, 2023 into the record.

5. Recreational Shellfish Report

Mr. Kelly reviewed the Recreational Shellfish Report ending April 30, 2023:

The Commission has issued **310 annual recreational permits** as of April 30, 2023. There were **258** renewals and **52** new permits. (83.2%/ 16.8%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	144	(\$ 4,290.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	149	(\$ 1,440.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	12	(\$ 720.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	5	(\$ 150.00)
Daily Permits issued -	0	(\$ 0.00)

The Commission has collected **\$7,380.00** since December 20, 2022 when we began issuing the 2023 recreational shellfishing permits.

1 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	27	1	28
March	31	0	31
April	22	8	30
May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
	105	15	120

Notes:

Closure Events

1/26 - rainfall > 1.5"
4/23 - rainfall > 1.5"
4/29 - rainfall > 1.5"

6. Old Business

a. Update on Earth Day Clean-ups.

Ms. Williams reported there were 4 people at the Hendricks Point clean up. They collected 6 large black bags of garbage. There was a lot of fishing line found. It appears to have been from

fishermen that are throwing the line into the bushes. There was also a lot of plastic food containers, cans, bottles, Styrofoam and plywood pieces.

Mr. Walsh stated he would like to see receptacles for the fishing line like they have at the marinas and bilingual signs noting that you should taking out what you bring in.

Members of the Commission indicated a willingness to clean out the fishing line receptacles and send to the recycling center.

Ms. Higgins discussed the Canal Beach clean up. She collected a large bag of garbage and piece of metal. There were several small bits of plastic. She spoke with several fishermen that were working several poles.

7. Next Steps

8. Other Business

- a. Mr. Kelly noted a grant proposal HarborWatch is discussing with the Town of Westport to install a trash skimmer in the Saugatuck River.
- b. Mr. Walsh noted the Fairfield Shellfish Commission is looking to gauge our Commission's interest in the Shell Recycling Program.
- c. Mr. Harris discussed PFA's. Louise Washer asked his about playing fields. There was a discussion on testing and the costs (\$295/test). All three tests done by his group have had high test numbers. State PFAS 10, 16 PFOA, Playing fields in Wilton and other areas. Send letters to the State and Aquarion asking what they are doing. The State does not have water standards. Took FF foam away. Now looking at drinking water. Mr. Harris will test the Saugatuck Rive and Five Mile Rive and take that information to the State. The testing requirements are changing with the EPA for surface waters. Shellfish suck in 50 gallons per day. They bioaccumulate PFAS, then neonicotinoids, tires and microplastics.

The May 3, 2023 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Motion:	Walsh	Second:	Harris
Ayes:	Walsh, Harris, Higgins, Lytton, Williams		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
			Vote: 5;0:0