

MINUTES
WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION
December 3, 2014

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:

Clarinda Higgins, Acting Chair
Leo Cirino
Jay Grayson
Heather Williams

Ex-Officios:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director
Robert Myer, Westport Marine Police

Staff:

Susan Voris, Recording Secretary

Guest:

Norm Bloom, Shellfisherman

The December 3, 2014 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 Acting Chairman, Clarinda Higgins.

This is to certify that these minutes and resolutions were filed with the Westport Town Clerk within 7 days of the December 3, 2014 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Alicia Mozian
Conservation Director

1. Approval of October 1, 2014 meeting minutes.

The October 1, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion:	Cirino	Second:	Williams
Ayes:	Cirino, Williams, Grayson, Higgins		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
		Vote:	4:0:0

2. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Higgins read the checking account balance ending October 31, 2014 into the record.

3. Police Report

Officer Myer reported the Police boat has been pulled out of the water and shrink-wrapped until spring. The jet-ski is out of the water and ready for maintenance to be performed by the dealer.

4. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris submitted the following report:

The Commission has issued **811 annual recreational permits** as of December 16, 2013.

522 are renewals and **289** are new permit holders. (64.4% / 35.6%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	546	(\$ 10,920.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	250	(\$ 2,500.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	11	(\$ 550.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	4	(\$ 100.00)
Daily Permits issued -	14	(\$ 140.00)

The Commission has collected **\$14,210.00** since December 16, 2013 when we began issuing the 2014 recreational shellfishing permits.

Ms. Mozian noted that 35% of the permit holders were new permittees. She asked for a comparison of past years to see the trend of new permit holders.

Ms. Voris stated for the purpose of her counting a renewal is someone who has had a permit the previous year. Some of the "new permit" holders have had Westport shellfish permits but just not last year's.

5. New Business

a. 2015 Permit Renewals

Ms. Voris stated she has compiled a list of e-mails and will be working with the IT department to see if she can reduce the postage costs of the renewal mailing. In any event, the renewals will be going out at the end of the month via e-mail and/or mail.

Ms. Voris submitted a sample of the 2015 permit application form which reflects the new permit fees, previously voted on by the Commission at the October 1, 2014 meeting.

The Commission reviewed the renewal letter with Ms. Higgins making some corrections.

Ms. Voris clarified that a person 85 and older is free but still must hold a permit. The Commission agreed.

6. Old Business

a. Transplant from deep waters of Cockenoe Flats.

Norm Bloom stated he transplanted 300 bushels by Canal Beach. He decided it was best not to do a more significant transplant from the river to the deep waters until spring after the water temperature gets above 50°. He stated that doing a transplant in the fall makes it more difficult to keep track of where the stock goes and it is more susceptible to poaching.

7. Other Business

a. Reappointment of Commissioners

Ms. Mozian noted that two members' terms were up. Mr. Cirino agreed to remain on the Commission. Ms. Mozian will contact Dr. Silverman.

b. Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions

Ms. Mozian noted the Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions will be held on January 31, 2015. Anyone interested in attending should let staff know no later than January 9, 2015.

c. Eagle Scout Project

Ms. Mozian noted an e-mail from Kristin DeRosia-Banick of the Bureau of Aquaculture looking for ideas for an Eagle Scout project.

d. Greenwich Shellfishing Day

Ms. Higgins reported on her experience in attending the Greenwich Shellfishing Day. She noted Greenwich has volunteer Shellfish Wardens. The demonstration was held at Todd's Point. Greenwich's recreational season runs from November 1 to May 31. Only 200 recreational permits are sold. Most of their revenue comes from leasing of commercial beds. She noted they had an instructional video.

e. Introducing Kids to Shellfishing

Ms. Higgins brought to light from the minutes of October 1, 2014 that a number of suggestions were made that the Commission should look into. The discussion focused on compiling a "how to" video that could be put on the Commission's website and expansion of teaching opportunities at Earthplace and the Town Farm that would bring young people's attention to shellfishing. It was agreed that the discussion would continue at the Commission's next meeting.

8. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission will be held on January 7, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 309 of Westport Town Hall.

9. Adjournment:

The Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Motion:	Grayson	Second:	Higgins
Ayes:	Grayson, Higgins, Cirino, Williams		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
		Vote:	4:0:0