# MINUTES WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION OCTOBER 1, 2014

# <u>ATTENDANCE</u>

**Commission Members:** 

Ron Silverman, Chair Leo Cirino Matt Dembski Jay Grayson Clarinda Higgins Drew Rice Heather Williams

# **Ex-Officios**:

Alicia Mozian, Conservation Director Robert Myer, Westport Marine Police

#### Staff

Susan Voris, Recording Secretary

# Guests:

Jim Marpe, First Selectman

The October 1, 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 Chairman, Ron Silverman.

This is to certify that these minutes and resolutions were filed with the Westport Town Clerk within 7 days of the October 1, 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 September 8, 2014 meeting minutes.

The September 8, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion: Silverman Second: Dembski

Ayes: Silverman, Dembski, Cirino, Williams

Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 4:0:0

## 2. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Silverman read the checking account balance ending August 31, 2014 into the record.

## 3. Police Report

Officer Myer reported that full-time staffing of the Marine Division ended on September 30, 2014. They will be pulling the shellfish boat for maintenance and storage. The Jet Ski will be pulled and stored at the Police Department. There have been no equipment failures. There were no enforcement issues this season.

#### 4. Recreational Shellfish Report

The Commission has issued 808 annual recreational permits as of December 16, 2013.

**520** are renewals and **285** are new permit holders. (64.6% / 35.4%)

Adult Resident Permits issued –	544	(\$	10,880.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	249	(\$	2,490.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	11	(\$	550.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	4	(\$	100.00)
Daily Permits issued -	140	(\$	140.00)

The Commission has collected **\$14,160.00** since December 16, 2013 when we began issuing the 2014 recreational shellfishing permits.

There were fewer closures this season due to rain and there was no vibrio closure. Last year, Ms. Voris approximated there was a 65 day closure due to vibrio.

#### 5. New Business

a. Meeting with Jim Marpe, First Selectman

The Commission discussed the program's history. They explained the budget and how the funds are used.

Mr. Marpe asked how the Commission plans to go about promoting the program.

The Commission explained that some of the programs that have worked for other Commissions such as demonstrations will not work in Westport as there is limited parking. Access to the recreational beds is primarily by boat. However, they discussed the rich history of Copp's Island Oyster and Cockenoe Oyster and have discussed having a Westport grown logo for restaurants to display on their menus.

Mr. Marpe suggested finding a way to introduce kids to shellfishing and connecting good stewardship of the land with viable shellfish beds. Some suggestions that came out of the

discussion included the connection of non-point source pollution; Farm to Table; work with EarthPlace or Wakeman Town Farm; promote a no permit needed day including make a movie on how to shellfish; and work with school curriculum.

#### **b.** Discussion of permit fee changes

The Commission reviewed and discussed proposed recreational shellfish permit fees. The changes are as follows:

Resident Adult - \$30 Resident Senior - \$15 Non-Resident Adult - \$60 Non-Resident Senior - \$30 Daily Permits - \$15

Motion to accept the proposed new permit fees.

There was a discussion and the motion was amended to make permits to anyone 85 and older free.

Motion: Silverman Second: Dembski
Ayes: Silverman, Dembski, Cirino, Grayson, Higgins, Rice, Williams
Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 7:0:0

#### 6. Old Business

a. Transplant from deep waters of Cockenoe Flats.

Ms. Voris reported that she has sent an application for a transplant from the deep waters of Cockenoe Flats to the shallows to the Bureau of Aquaculture. If approved, it would take place between October 1, 2014 to October 8, 2014.

#### 7. Other Business

a. UConn's Economic Assessment of Recreation Shellfishing in Connecticut

Ms. Mozian noted that Ms. Voris completed the 10 question survey that will help characterize and then place a dollar value on the economic importance of recreational shellfishing in Connecticut.

b. Connecticut Shellfish Initiative - A Vision for the Future

Ms. Mozian stated this initiative will identify policies and practices to protect shellfish resources and promote sustainable harvests. She noted they have collected the data and are now working on specific measurable goals and strategies.

## 8. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission will be held on November 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 309 of Westport Town Hall.

# Adjournment:

The Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Motion:

Silverman, Grayson, Cirino, Dembski, Higgins, Rice, Williams None Abstentions: None Vote: 7:0:0 Ayes: Nayes: