SHELLFISH COMMISSION

TOWN HALL – 110 MYRTLE AVENUE WESTPORT, CT 06880 P 203.341.1087 F 203.341.1088



MINUTES WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION JUNE 7, 2023

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:
Jamie Walsh, Chair
Barry Lytton, Vice-Chair
Dick Harris
Scott Reichhelm
Clarinda Higgins, Alternate

Heather Williams, Alternate

Ex-Officios:

Colin Kelly, Conservation Director Brendan Fearon, Westport Marine Police

Staff:

Susan Voris, Admin. Asst. III

Guests:

The June 7, 2023 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, Jamie Walsh.

This is to certify that these minutes and resolutions were filed with the Westport Town Clerk within 7 days of the June 7, 2023 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Colin Kelly
Conservation Director

1. Approval of the May 3, 2023 minutes.

The May 3, 2023 minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Motion: Harris Second: Higgins Ayes: Harris, Higgins, Lytton, Reichhelm, Walsh, Williams

Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 6:0:0

2. Treasurers Report

Mr. Walsh read the checking account balance ending April 30, 2023 into the record.

3. Police Report

Cpl. Fearon reported that activity on the beds has been slow so far this season. There has been some illegal activity near Longshore that they have taken care of. There is a large influx of Hispanic populations taking shellfish illegally. They are trying to educate individuals about the areas but there is a language barrier.

a. Discussion of potential overtime for shellfish enforcement.

Cpl. Fearon asked for 10 patrols outside regular hours to use at their discretion. Cpl. Fearon discussed that afternoon and evening shifts tend to be the times when they need to be out and find more illegal activity.

Motion to allow up to 10 overtime patrols at the discretion of the Marine Unit for shellfish enforcement.

Motion: Lytton Second: Harris Ayes: Lytton, Harris, Higgins, Reichhelm, Walsh, Williams

Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 6:0:0

4. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris submitted the following recreational report:

The Commission has issued **363 annual recreational permits** as of May 31, 2023.

Adult Resident Permits issued –	175	(\$	5,220.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	166	(\$	2,460.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	16	(\$	960.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	6	(\$	180.00)
Daily Permits issued -	0	(\$	0.00)

The Commission has collected **\$8,820.00** since December 20, 2022 when we began issuing the 2023 recreational shellfishing permits.

2 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	13	18	31
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
	118	33	151

Notes:

Closure Events

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

4/29 - rainfall > 1.5" 5/20 - rainfall > 2.5"

5/22 - sewage line bypass < 500 gallons

- 5. New Business None
- 6. Old Business None
- 7. Next Steps None
- 8. Other Business
 - **a.** Mr. Harris noted that there was harmful algae bloom killed fish in Norwalk River.
 - **b.** Mr. Harris reported bacteria counts are way down in water quality testing.
 - c. Mr. Harris discussed artificial turf playing fields.
 - d. Possible clambake dates September 7 and September 14.

The June 7, 2023 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Motion: Williams Second: Higgins
Ayes: Williams, Higgins, Harris, Lytton, Reichhelm, Walsh
Nayes: None Abstentions: None Vote: 6:0:0