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

MINUTES WESTPORT SHELLFISH COMMISSION MAY 1, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members:
Jamie Walsh, Chair
Barry Lytton, Vice-Chair
Dick Harris
Jesse Harte
Clarinda Higgins, Alternate
Heather Williams, Alternate

Ex-Officios:

Colin Kelly, Conservation Director

Staff:

Susan Voris, Admin. Asst. III

The May 1, 2024 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 May 1, 2024 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. Westport Clean-up Day Report - Commission working at Canal Beach and Hendrick's Point at Longshore

Ms. Higgins completed the clean-up at Canal Beach. She noted there was less trash than in previous years though there was lots of little bits of things.

Mr. Walsh noted that Ms. Williams and he cleaned up at Hendricks Point. They pulled out three 55 gallon bags of trash. There is still a lot of fishing line in the trash. He noted there seems to be a lot of erosion occurring along the slope of the driving range this year. They were able to see trash poking out from the old dump site.

2. Approval of the March 3, 2024 minutes.

The March 3, 2024 minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Motion: Higgins Second: Lytton

Ayes: Higgins, Lytton, Harris, Harte, Walsh, Williams

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

3. Treasurers Report

Mr. Walsh read the April 30, 2024 checking account balance into the record.

4. Police Report

Mr. Kelly noted that he spoke with Deputy Chief Ryan Paulssen about the team. Brendan Fearon will be lead. Sam Sabin, who has served on the Marine Unit in the past and an officer that has made a lateral move from Hartford that has marine experience.

5. Recreational Shellfish Report

Ms. Voris submitted the following report:

The Commission has issued 108 annual recreational permits as of April 30, 2024.

Adult Resident Permits issued –	83	(\$	2,460.00)
Senior Resident Permits issued –	110	(\$	1,620.00)
Adult Non-resident Permits issued –	1 3	(\$	780.00)
Senior Non-resident Permits issued –	2	(\$	60.00)
Daily Permits issued -	3	(\$	45.00)

The Commission has collected **\$4,965.00** since December 18, 2023 when we began issuing the 2024 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	18	13	31
February	29	0	29
March	6	25	31
April	20	10	30

May			
June			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
	73	48	121

Notes:

Closure Events

1/9 - 1.93" rainfall event

3/6 - 2.16" rainfall event

3/7 - closure event due Bed 409 public health issue keeping beds closed minimum 21 day

3/7 - sewer line break and spill at pump station 9/ Hillandale Road into Muddy Brook

3/12 - sewage spill at pump station with bypass into Silver Brook

3/23 - 3.02" rainfall event

4/3/24 - >1.5" rainfall event

4/29 - sewage bypass in Norwalk impacting the Saugatuck River

6. Old Business

a. Possible booth at Farmers Market – B. Lytton to provide detail

Mr. Lytton stated that as a non-profit there would be no costs for the Commission to set up at the Farmers Market. The Commission could pick three dates. He has reached out to Tessa Getchiss about getting some informational materials for the booth. He asked about the Commission's opinion about serving oysters as a way of providing interest in the resources available.

Members and staff noted that there may be requirements from the Health District that would have to be fulfilled in order to do this.

b. Continue discussion about free permits for indigenous individuals

This agenda item was tabled to a later meeting.

7. Other Business:

a. Recognition and congratulations to Dick Harris for "Unsung Hero Award" from Special Olympics Connecticut.

Mr. Walsh recognized Mr. Harris for his outstanding work to the community.

Marketing Materials – R. Higgins to provide detail of Fairfield efforts.
 Ms. Higgins stated the Fairfield Shellfish Commission has produced a flyer with a QR code linked to their application. The flyer is geared toward shellfishing being a family activity. They have the flyer available at the library. They also have a waterproof sign with the QR code.

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c. Mr. Harris stated he has 2 high school interns for six weeks through Staples. He has the idea of studying Deadman's Brook for bacteria, PFA's and neonicotinoids. The State lab has reviewed his protocols and is on board. He has the lab for the bacteria study. The test kits for the PFAs study. The neonicotinoids study will cost \$2,250. He has a grant for \$1,100. There is no other study that has been done like this anywhere in the State. He is looking for grant funding to cover the remaining balance.

Motion to approve \$1,150 for testing.

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

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

8. Next Steps

The May 1, 2024 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:35 p.m.