



SHELLFISH COMMISSION
TOWN HALL – 110 MYRTLE AVENUE
WESTPORT, CT 06880
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Minutes
Westport Shellfish Commission
September 4, 2024

Commission Members:

Jamie Walsh, Chair
Barry Lytton, Vice-Chair
Clarinda Higgins, Alternate
Heather Williams, Alternate

Ex-Officios:

Colin Kelly, Conservation Director

Staff:

Susan Johnson, Admin. Asst. III

Guests:

Liz Milwe, property owner of 36 Spriteview Avenue
Hunter Peterson

The September 4, 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 Chair, Jamie Walsh.

This is to certify that these minutes and resolutions were filed with the Westport Town Clerk within 7 days of the September 4, 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. **36 Spriteview Avenue:** Review for comments to CT DEEP for the proposed construction of a private dock consisting of a ramp and float secured by a landing, and cables.

Liz Milwe, property owner, was present at the meeting. She stated there was an old dock on the property that she had removed since it was unsafe.

Mr. Kelly reviewed the proposal for the proposed dock. He reviewed a easement document for the previous dock as it is located in the Town right of way. The proposed dock has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Selectwomen.

The Commission and staff discussed the area is Prohibited and is a natural bed. The proposal will not have an impact on the shellfish resources.

The Commission voted to approve the proposed dock with no comments.

Motion:	Lytton	Second:	Williams
Ayes:	Lytton, Williams, Higgins, Walsh		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
			Vote: 4:0:0

2. Approval of the July 10, 2024 minutes.

Mr. Kelly shared an email with the Commission from David Carey, Director of Bureau of Aquaculture. Mr. Carey clarified that the beds in the Sherwood Mill Pond were designated in the 1850's by the Westport Shellfish Commission and are currently under the control of the Bureau of Aquaculture as the Town passed that jurisdiction to the State. He suggested that the minutes be changes to include "Jeff Northrop does own the private right to plant and cultivate his shellfish beds granted previously by the Town of Westport and he pays an annual tax, which the Department remits to the Town."

The July 10, 2024 minutes were approved with the proposed clarification by Mr. Carey.

Motion:	Walsh	Second:	Higgins
Ayes:	Walsh, Higgins, Lytton, Williams		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
			Vote: 4:0:0

3. Treasurers Report – **TABLED**

4. Police Report – **TABLED**

5. Recreational Shellfish Report – **TABLED**

6. Old Business

- a. Discussion with Dick Harris regarding water quality testing in Deadmans Brook.

Mr. Harris was not at the meeting.

Mr. Kelly reviewed a map of the watershed. He noted that Mr. Harris has done a study of the watershed and has concerns with the PFA levels being detected at many sites. There are no obvious reasons for the increased levels based on the aerial photos.

Mr. Walsh noted that Violet Lane used to house a tannery and suggested that the chemicals used in the tanning process could have an impact on the water quality testing. Also, there is a house on that street that has a truck in the basement that is deteriorating.

Mr. Kelly showed the Commission the GIS map with the floodplain and floodway for the area.

The remainder of the discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

7. Other Business:

- a. Website upgrade

Ms. Johnson stated that the Conservation website has been updated and she is working on creating a more user friendly and updated website for the Shellfish Commission. While it is a work in progress, she reviewed some of the temporary pages that have been created. There is more room for adding information including some of the Commission's historical shellfish maps and information that was gathered at the Annual Gatherings of Shellfish Commission.

- b. Potential utilization of Accela permitting system to issue Recreational Shellfish Permits.

Ms. Johnson noted that she has had a discussion with the IT person in charge of the Town's permitting system. It appears that we should be able to offer online permitting via the system using the Dog License permitting as a basis for building out our system. She will be meeting with IT in October with the hopes of having the system ready for the 2025 season.

- c. Hunter Peterson stated that he has completed several tours with his business including fishing and crabbing. There have been 4 Daily Permits for recreational shellfishing issued in the last month.

- d. Mr. Kelly noted the Fairfield Shellfish Commission “Clam Clinic” is being held on September 14, 2024.
- e. Mr. Lytton noted that he has not yet set up any further visits to the Farmer’s Market but is open to looking into opportunities for the coming months including the Winter Farmers Market.

The Commission offered suggestions including Lachat Farms in Weston. They discussed various community events where in the future there may be opportunities to participate as a Commission including the Milford Oyster Festival and the Norwalk Oyster Festival.

8. Next Steps

The September 4, 2024 meeting of the Westport Shellfish Commission adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Motion:	Williams	Second:	Lytton
Ayes:	Williams, Lytton, Higgins, Walsh		
Nayes:	None	Abstentions:	None
		Vote:	4:0:0