

**GUILFORD SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES**

October 12, 2016

7:30 P.M.

Town Hall, second floor, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Commissioners: Chair Alison Varian, Vice Chair Stephen Goldschmidt, John Hall, Ed Lombard, Eric Mull, John Sieviec

Absent: Anthony DeLucia

Wardens: Allyn Brown

Commercial: Chris Walston, C.W. Shellfish LLC
Doug Scheppach
Bud Harris,
Steve Schaefer, Stella Mar Shellfish (former Hemlock)

Guests: Guilford Police Officer Fred Hill, potential Warden

At 7:32 pm Chair Alison Varian called to order the regular meeting.

1. Public Forum

There were no comments.

2. Minutes of September 14, 2016 meeting

Upon review,

Motion: Eric Mull moved to approve the September 14, 2016 minutes with amendments, seconded by John Sieviec.

Vote: Carried - Stephen Goldschmidt, Ed Lombard, John Hall, John Sieviec, Eric Mull

3. Commercial Activity and Licenses - Stephen Goldschmidt

Stephen Goldschmidt reported that he had emailed GSC Lot application forms requested by fishermen Bud Harris, Chris Walston and Doug Scheppach. Mr. Harris will apply for a new chartered Lot. Stephen will invoice all fisheries by the December GSC meeting.

4. Bills and Correspondence

Treasurer Eric Mull) reported :

Bills

C.W. Shellfish/Chris Walston	\$ 4,225.00	stocking clams
Warden Peter Beauvais	\$ 120.00	September - October
Recording Secretary - Judy Anderson Castellano	\$ 119.00	September
Data Entry - Kristen Elliott	\$ 161.50	several months
Beebe Boatyard	\$ 1,120.26	replacement supplies
Schweitzer Waste Removal (former Waste Tech) (seasonal containers to be removed until May 2017)	\$ 214.45	trash containers

Motion: John Hall moved to approve payment of the bills, seconded by John Sieviec.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Upon further review,

Motion: John Hall moved to include bills from Warden Allyn Brown (\$520 Sept./Oct.) and Intercoastal Fisheries (\$20,000 seed clams), seconded by John Sieviec.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Total Bills : \$26,480.21

Correspondence

- Notice : UCONN Sea Grant Shellfish Initiative

5. Wardens' Report

Warden Allyn Brown reported :

- He had patrolled Shell Beach and Great Harbor this month.
- There are less shellfishers now as the waters continue to cool.
- Due to the continued good rapport with shellfishers, some have asked him to check the size of their clams and will report when they see violations. Allyn would like to expand this community relationship in the other recreational areas.
- Allyn and Chris Walston will repair the vandalized labeling on Chris' buoys.

6. Subcommittees

A. Recreation – Stephen Goldschmidt

Stephen Goldschmidt had emailed the monthly Recreational License Revenue report :

- Approximately, 1,063 were sold, mostly nonresident.
- A few complaints were received regarding the \$5.00 increase in the annual fee for Senior licenses.

Recreation Vendor Sales :

- Capt. Morgan \$4,545.00
- Guilford Lobster Pound \$ -0-
- Dee's Bait \$ 44.00
- Town Clerk \$ 68.00

Commercial Sales

- Bloom's Nursery \$ 386.00

Total: \$5,043.00

B. Water Sampling – Ed Lombard / John Hall / Stephen Goldschmidt

Ed Lombard reported that sampling is up to date. He advised that the State of CT is decreasing the DEEP work hours which will have an impact on access to laboratory testing and results. John Sieviec volunteered to assist with the sampling process.

C. Boat - John Hall / Alison Varian

Ed Lombard, John Hall and Alison Varian comprise a Boat Subcommittee. The boat will be checked for a possible problem with the starter or fuel injector and a list will be created for refurbishments.

D. Stocking – Eric Mull/Anthony DeLucia/Alison Varian/John Hall

Eric Mull reported that he will make the annual trip to Intercoastal Fisheries in New Jersey on October 17 to pick up the seed clam order. This year had a slow growth season with less than half of the clams at 17-20 milliliters in size and more mixed sizes. Due to this smaller size than last year, the cost is one cent less per clam so there will be more than the usual 400,000.

Discussion reviewed the locations to broadcast the clams in Little Harbor, Great Harbor and Chaffinch Island. GSC will use Chair Varian's boat and she will contact the Guilford Fire Dept. on using their Fire Boat to assist with stocking.

E. Finance - Eric Mull

Treasurer Eric Mull reported that he had emailed members the September Operating statement from the Town Finance Dept. today. The revenue and budget balance are on target.

F. Special Projects – Eric Mull / John Hall

There are no projects at this time.

G. Signs - Anthony DeLucia

All open/closed signs are posted up to date and in good condition.

H. Website Ed Lombard continues to update the GSC website.**7. Updates****A. Land Acquisition Commission (LAC)**

Stephen Goldschmidt advised that there was no new information to report from LAC.

B. Sea Grant Advisory Board (SGAB)

Stephen Goldschmidt reported that there is no new SGAB information to report.

C. Harbor Management Commission (HMC)

Chair Varian advised that approximately 200 moorings have been registered to date, not including the Sachem Head Yacht Club.

8. Old Business

A. Sea Grant reimbursement for supplies for Boy Scouts/School groups

Upon review of supplies, Allyn Brown will provide a list of items to submit to UCONN Sea Grant program to be reimbursed for Boy Scouts, school group programs and other needs. Allyn advised that Wardens need more rings to measure shellfishers' clams. He will research a lower cost.

B. 137 West Lane pier application

Chair Varian advised that there was no new information to report regarding the pier application for 137 West Lane.

9. New Business

A. License Language

Discussion reviewed updates to the recreational license forms, change in color of 2017 license and additional information for shellfishers. A tide chart will be included with the Daily License and a \$1.00 fee for a special one day event such as a Cub Scout Clamming Day. Vendors will be notified of these and other revisions. Chair Varian will order the 2017 license forms from K&G Printing, Branford, CT.

B. Warden Guidelines

John Hall and Ed Lombard had met to work on revising guidelines for Warden patrols including hours of operation, enforcement criteria, needs of each shellfishing area, number of regular shifts required and additional times of need.

Chair Varian had asked Officer Fred Hill to research state shellfishing laws and reminded that the Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions uses GSC as a model for commissions. Fred submitted copies of 22 pages from State Statutes, Chapter 492 for local shellfisheries.

Upon discussion, it was decided that John Hall and Ed Lombard will compose draft guidelines from members' and wardens' feedback. Additional detail in Warden reports would be helpful in preparing GSC budget, monitoring best patrol practices, safety issues, parking, violations, weather prediction, tide charts, developing community partnerships and mutual good relationships with active shellfishers. GSC can provide public education on stewardship of farming shellfish grounds. Warden Brown noted that those who violate the regulations and laws are stealing from all shellfishers who harvest and steward the grounds.

Discussion continued on :

- The role of commissioners at recreational locations, especially prior to holidays and other increased shellfishing days.
- Very few residents attend GSC meetings to support or provide feedback on their experiences, yet may alert a Warden.
- DEEP remains the enforcement authority issuing tickets to violators.
- Officer Hill will pursue the process by the police department to provide each commissioner with a Town of Guilford identification card.

C. Annual Seed Clam Stocking

Discussion held under "Stocking".

10. Adjournment

Motion: At 8:56pm, Stephen Goldschmidt moved to adjourn, seconded by Eric Mull.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary