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Meeting date:

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

Old Lyme Shellfish Commission

Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall – Mezzanine Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Todd Machnik called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

ATTENDENCE

Members Present: Todd Machnik, John Nickerson, John Seckla

Guests: Samuel Schavoir, Meridith Daniels, Anthony Daniels

(all Old Lyme residents)

Clerk: Mary Ellen Garbarino

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Todd Machnik and John Seckla presented a history of the Shellfish Commission throughout the years. The Commission has always been independent of the Town funds. Todd Machnik moved to stay independent from any Town encumbrances at this time and John Seckla seconded the motion. **SO VOTED.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer John Seckla reported that there is \$1,186.15 in the Shellfish Commission bank account.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Proposal of Possible Oyster Grounds

Todd Machnik reported on a discussion he had with a Town resident about the possibility of leasing oyster ground from the Commission. Todd contacted Edwin Lombard of the Guilford Shellfish Commission and Mr. Lombard sent Todd some information that should be helpful in getting started. Todd has reached out twice to Mr. David Carey, Director of the Connecticut State Department of Agriculture, but has not heard back from him yet. Mr. Carey had attended the Shellfish Commission meeting in 2019 and was very informative about this subject. Todd hopes that Mr. Carey could give the Commission guidance on how to proceed. Todd also spoke with Keith Neilson from Docko about any possible issues that could come from property owners regarding leasing oyster grounds and Mr. Neilson could not think of any.

Guests introduced themselves, giving personal background and their reasons for attending tonight's meeting which was to gather information about the possibility of the leasing of oyster grounds.

Suggestions were given from Mr. Schavoir and Mr. Daniels about moving forward with the leasing. It was decided that any interested parties should put together a proposal and present to the Commission. Proposals should include any ideas and suggestions including fundraising possibilities and partnerships. They agreed to share any survey work with the Commission.

b. Any other new business

Anthony Daniels asked if it would be a conflict of interest if he were to apply to the Town to become a member of the Shellfish Commission. Todd Machnik did not think it would be.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No other public comment was made.

ADJOURNMENT

Todd Machnik moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM and John Seckla seconded the motion.
SO VOTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Garbarino (Clerk)

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