

Warren Harbor Commission
Minutes from the February 3rd, 2016 Meeting

Present

William J. Kemp (chairman)
Don Betts
Tom Culora
Bill Hunt
John Treacy
Ed Cabral – Harbormaster
David Pion – Assistant Harbormaster

Absent:

Craig Lippman

Guests:

Jan Reitsma, Town Manager
Julie Blount
Dr. Dale Leavitt, RWU
Dave Beutel, CRMC
Joe Migliori, DEM Water Resources
Jarrod Goulart, RI Commercial Shell-fisherman
David Loren, Electrician
Manny Rezendes, Master Plumber

1. Meeting Opened by Chairman Kemp at 7:08 PM
2. Introduction of new Commission member John Treacy.
3. Minutes of January 6, 2016 meeting unanimously approved as distributed.
4. Aquaculture Initiatives
 - a. RWU Presentation: Dr. Dale Leavitt
 - History of Oysters in RI
 - Current Status of RI Oyster Stock
 - Successes of Connecticut Oyster Program
 - Basic Steps in Oyster Restoration
 - Blount Hatchery at RWU
 - RWU Nursery System (Oyster Upweller)
 - Description of Upweller
 - Example of proposed Upweller to be used in Warren
 - Oysters filter water from upwellers
 - b. Q&A

- i. Preliminary work to determine a site for restoration?
Water quality, habitat, may require a “conditional area” possible shell fishing restrictions on quahoggers??
Can we restrict areas in RI?
Would need to talk to legislator to change current law. Would be a wild harvest in RI.
- ii. Can oysters coexist with quahogs?
No, not really. “political” issue with quahoggers. Damage due to raking, competition for habitat...
- iii. Current Bay Closures and water quality?
It’s getting better, the numbers have been good but we have been in drought conditions for 2 years so it may be false data.
- iv. CRMC involvement?
They handle all aquaculture in the state and would issue permit to the Town of Warren.
Possibility of applying for a research aquaculture permit?
“Research Education Permit” lasts 3yrs and is renewable. Same criteria that defines where the seed ends up in bay. Less of an issue if seed stays in the same zone in the bay.
- v. Where is seed coming from?
RWU or “approved” hatchery. Regardless, seeds need a pathology testing from the seed seller.
- vi. If the town holds the permit are there any obligations that go with that?
Once we got through the state all of the additional responsibility goes to fish and wildlife.
- vii. Is there a way to have the educational piece continue once oysters are handed over to the state?
Yes, upweller, “seeding events” with the kids, etc.

5. Harbormaster’s report – Motion to table until next month unanimously approved.

6. Harbor Management Plan Update – Motion to table until next month unanimously approved.

7. Other Business – None

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

William J. Kemp, Chairman

Craig Lippman, Secretary