

TOWN OF CLINTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION MEETING
JAN 7, 2025 – TUES 7:00 PM
CLINTON POLICE DEPT COMMUNITY ROOM
MINUTES

Present: Wayne Church, Mike Corcoran, Wesley Kavanagh, Al Walker

Not Present: Allen Murphy, James Smith and Jerome Warner

Volunteer(s): John Vanderwerff

Guest(s): Joe Kowalsky, 22A Jefferson Circle, Clinton (Kowalsky Fisheries)
Cell: 860-964-1335, Email: kowalskyfisheries@gmail.com

CALLED TO ORDER

W. Church called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A. Walker made a motion, seconded by M. Corcoran and unanimously approved minutes from Dec 3, 2024 meeting.

FINANCIAL-Current

W. Kavanagh made a motion, seconded by A. Walker and unanimously approved the following expenses, *which W. Church will submit to finance*:

J. Warner	\$ 68.34 (milage)
M. Corcoran	\$ 28.14 (West Marine for Velcro straps and boat wax)
W. Church	\$100.82 (2025 annual fee for Weather Pro Weather Station)
W. Church	\$104.73 (Restaurant Depot for food, plates, spoons for chowder made for “Christmas in Clinton “event)

Receipt was submitted from M. Corcoran for Steward’s Ace Hrd for \$1.18 charged on Town Acct.

M. Corcoran reported the West Marine account was never corrected to allow other Commissioners on the Shellfish Commission to charge except for W. Church. *W. Church to contact West Marine to add other approved commissioner names to Town Charge Acct. and confirm the account is noted as tax exempt.*

FINANCIAL-Outstanding

The following expenses have not yet been reimbursed from Dec 2024. *M. Larsen will check with finance department and will advise via email the status.*

W. Kavanagh	\$28.14
A. Murphy	\$49.58

RECREATIONAL

- Shellfish license sales in Dec 2024 for 2025 Licenses:
 - Town Hall: 1 Kit, 3 Res, 7 Res Sr/Mil, 1 Non-Res Sr/Mil
 - Website: no sales
 - Christmas in Clinton Event: 1 Res, 2 Sr Res

- **Patrolling Report:**
W. Kavanaugh reported patrolling has been performed and all had licenses. There continues to be at times those who don't understand correct location(s) to clam.

W. Kavanaugh recommended each Constable have an issued Shellfish Lic with "Constable" noted on it for ID purposes while patrolling.
 - W. Church issued the following "Constable" Shellfish Licenses during meeting:
 - W. Kavanaugh Resident Lic #53
 - M. Corcoran Resident Lic #54
 - Al Walker Resident Lic # 55
- J. Vanderwerff volunteered to update the Shellfish Verbiage & Map to better define the approved areas/boundaries for recreational shell fishing which currently many people have expressed confusion by. *He will submit a draft for review/approval at the Feb 4, 2025 meeting*
- There was discussion regarding the signage at the beach and need for clearer markings. *W.Church will work on getting pricing for signs.*
- Seed and stocking: No Repot

LEASING/COMMERCIAL

Nothing to report. Next leasing bill will be submitted to Tucker in June 2025.

REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE

Discussion on finding out if Cedar Island has a community septic system or individuals and if it's possible to get pump out records through the town hall. *A. Walker volunteered to looking into this.*

OTHER

- Joe Kowalsk from Kowalsky Fisheries (wholesale clams & oysters) attended the commission meeting as a visitor seeking insight/information into the historical knowledge of commercial shellfishing in Clinton and along other local shoreline towns. Joe is researching if there is opportunity to do commercial shellfishing in Clinton and how to properly go about approvals, permits, etc. There was a discussion on shared knowledge from commission members. *W.Church offered to locate other information he has and will email Joe.*
- Shellfish Commission participated in "Christmas in Clinton" on Sunday 12/8/24. Serving free Clam Chowder while accepting donations. M.Corcoran donated his hand painted Clam Shells which were offered for sale. Between donations and sales of painted shells the commission brought in \$140.00.
- The Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions will be held on Saturday, February 8th at the Jones Auditorium, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at 123 Huntington St, New Haven, CT 06511. This meeting is hosted and sponsored by Connecticut Sea Grant, UConn Extension and the CT Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture. This meeting covers all aspects of local shellfisheries management and features regulatory guidance from the Department of Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture. Contact: tessa.getchis@uconn.edu. The cost for registration for the meeting is \$35 which covers the cost of lunch and refreshments. *At least one or more from the Clinton's Shellfish Commission will attend.*
[Gathering of Shellfish Commissions](#)
- W. Church noted J. Smith has been doing a great job with keeping the public informed via social media regarding Shellfishing and/or activities the Shellfish Commission is participating in.

- The shellfish boat is now being stored in the new shed/hoop house at The Public Works Dept.
- **The Shellfish Commission would like to acknowledge their gratitude of appreciation to the Public Works Dept for their assistance and generosity in offering a location for winter boat storage and assisting in setting up the new hoop house.**
- M. Corcoran made a recommendation to purchase a hydraulic roll up door system for the hoop house which the boat is stored in due to the cumbersome size and weight of the current door closure, approximate cost of \$100.00. *W. Church will review budget for availability of funds for purchase.*
- M. Corcoran and W. Kavanaugh recommended purchasing a solar battery charger for the boat, approximate cost of \$100.00. *W. Church will review budget for availability of funds for purchase.*
- W. Church and W. Kavanaugh on 12/19/24 investigated the Town Beach Weather Station to determine why rain gauge wasn't properly registering. They performed maintenance and determined rain gauge was very clogged. Rain gauge was thoroughly cleaned and is back up and working again. A recommendation was made to create a schedule for routine seasonal maintenance. *M. Larsen will add schedules to bottom of agendas and minutes for reference.*

ADJOURN MEETING

A.Walker made a motion, seconded by M. Corcoran and unanimously approved to adjourn meeting at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by:

Monica Larsen, Clerk

2025 Constable Schedule:

01/05/25	thru	01/11/25	Wes Kavanaugh
01/12/25	thru	01/18/25	Mike Corcoran
01/19/25	thru	01/25/25	Allen Murphy
01/26/25	thru	02/01/25	Al Walker
02/02/25	thru	02/08/25	Wayne Church
02/09/25	thru	02/15/25	Jerry Warner
02/16/25	thru	02/22/25	Jim Smith
02/23/25	thru	03/01/25	Wes Kavanaugh
03/02/25	thru	03/08/25	Mike Corcoran
03/09/25	thru	03/15/25	Allen Murphy
03/16/25	thru	03/22/25	Al Walker
03/23/25	thru	03/29/25	Wayne Church
03/30/25	thru	04/05/25	Jerry Warner
04/06/25	thru	04/12/25	Jim Smith
04/13/25	thru	04/19/25	Wes Kavanaugh
04/20/25	thru	04/26/25	Mike Corcoran
04/27/25	thru	05/03/25	Allen Murphy
05/04/25	thru	05/10/25	Al Walker
05/11/25	thru	05/17/25	Wayne Church
05/18/25	thru	05/24/25	Jerry Warner
05/25/25	thru	05/31/25	Jim Smith

2025 Meetings Schedule

01/07/25
02/04/25
03/04/25
04/01/25
05/06/25
06/03/25
07/01/25
08/05/25
09/02/25
10/07/25
11/04/25
12/02/25

2025 Weather Station Maintenance

12/19/24 Wayne & Wes Completed
Mid Mar 2025
Mid Sept 2025