



Town of Stonington
Shellfish Commission
152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

REGULAR MEETING

April 7, 2022

6:30 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at the Town of Stonington Town Hall ground floor meeting room. Members present were Chairman, Mr. Donald Murphy; Mr. Alan Banister; Mr. Donald Raffo; Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary Mr. Austin Clark. There was a quorum present.

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – There were no comments from the public at this time.
- 3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of the March 3rd, 2022 regular meeting. A date correction was offered and a motion was made and seconded (Banister / Raffo) to accept the amended minutes. Voted 5 – 0 in favor.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a). The Chair mentioned the deadline for the next issue of the Stonington Magazine which the Secretary noted and mentioned a few ideas for the issue.
- 5) Business
 - a). The Chair provided the water quality monitoring report for the month of March. The recreational beds were open for the majority of the month and the water samples taken during the month were good.
 - b). Commercial Shellfishing report - Steve Plant mentioned that the oyster market was wild at the moment as there was a short supply, he theorized due to COVID in the past and the uncertainty caused less seed to be set last year. Will and Garrett had nothing unusual to report.
Beth Gomes & Kris Simonds mentioned their desire to apply for bottom acreage again and mentioned that they have taken over sole ownership of the aquaculture business. The Chair asked for a letter informing the Commission of the names and e-mail addresses of the legal owners.

Included in the monthly packet were sheets updating the Commission on annual remuneration of the Commercial license holders. The Chair noted that there were both cash payments and payments in kind made this past year and all license holders are current.

- c). In the monthly packet were maps and information regarding the Mystic Harbor Management Commission's plan. The Chair has added some information to it, but also stated that the current plan is a work in progress.

- d). A brief discussion was held regarding the seasonal permit design. The Chair identified the old cost at 30 cents a unit, and now with color it is 39 cents.
- e). Equipment update:
- * The Commission's boat is on track for getting launched and should be in the water this week.
 - * The Davis rain gauge has been packed up and sent back to Davis for recalibration. Commissioner Banister commented on the difficulty in dealing with Davis' customer service department.
 - *The Chair updated the Commissioners on the progress Commissioner Hollis had made with the Town DPW and the Department's willingness to produce a new set of Open / Closed signs for the Commission.
- 6) Summary of the discussions of the Gathering of Connecticut's Shellfish Commissions.
- * The Chair updated the group on the proceedings of the 18th Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions held Saturday April 2nd, 2022 which was attended by the Chair and Secretary. During the roundtable discussion many of the Commissions of the Towns in attendance expressed the difficulty in locating clam seed. The State has announced a project in the western part of the State to develop oyster beds and thought that some of the commercial harvesters may have clams available from that project.
 - *The Chair also mentioned that the State held a "Best Practices" workshop on March 22nd at the Groton Public Library.
- 7). Financial Review. One invoice for \$286 for printing was identified, and the maps and recreational permits were shown to the group.
- 8) New Business: Commissioner Banister asked the commercial operators if the recall on Canadian oysters had any effect on any of their operations.
- 9). Adjournment – At 7:21pm a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. (Banister / Raffo) Voted 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark
Secretary