



REGULAR MEETING

May 5, 2022

6:30 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date. Members present were Chairman, Mr. Donald Murphy; Mr. Alan Banister; Mr. Donald Raffo; Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary Mr. Austin Clark; alternate member Mr. Bob Hollis and our warden Mr. Rob Russell. There is a quorum present.

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – None at this time.
- 3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of April 7, 2022. It was identified that there was an extra word in the Commercial Shellfish Report. That change was so noted and a motion was made and seconded (Banister / Raffo) to accept the minutes as amended. 5 - 0
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) The Chair shared correspondence from Selectwoman Danielle Chesebrough requesting a letter of support for a grant for federal funding to help repair the Town Pier. Given the short fuse the members weren't sure if a letter could be drafted in time.
 - b) The Chair informed the group of the interview he had with an intern that is working on helping develop the Town's monthly newsletter.
 - c) In the monthly meeting packet, an article including a picture of Commissioner Clark helping to transplant oysters received as payment in kind, was inserted in the Harbor Management Commission Newsletter.
 - d) The Chair reported on a meeting he and the Commission secretary had with the Town's newly elected Town Clerk to help the Clerk understand the shellfish licensing procedures and requirements.
 - e) In the packet was a copy of the e-mail from Beth Gomes including an Application to Conduct Aquaculture. This was timely after the above meeting with the Town Clerk, the Chair advised the applicants to make an appointment with the Town Clerk to receive an approval for the license.
- 5) Business
 - a) The water quality testing results were included for the month of April. The results were good and the recreational beds were closed for 8 days after a rainfall of almost an inch & ½. During this discussion, the Chair mentioned to the group about his efforts to secure a source of clam seed or mature animals.
 - b) Commercial Shellfish Report

Garrett Timmons mentioned that his son had experienced COVID and therefore did not have much activity. Will MacKay said he was waiting for the water temperature to rise a bit and Kris Simonds mentioned that they

were almost out of oysters to harvest. He also queried what the Commission would be willing to pay for clams as he had some that could be harvested when he prepares his oyster beds. They would need to be depurated, however, as they are located in Mystic Harbor.

- c) Mystic Harbor Management Commission – The Chair shared with the group the Shellfish Commission's input to the report along with maps and labeling the areas.

- d) Equipment

The Davis rain gauge is back from the manufacturer and the Chair was set to install it prior to the expected rain fall on Saturday of this week.

Comments were made as to the follow up of the new shellfishing areas open / closed signs. There was no word on their completion and the Secretary said he would follow up with the Town.

- 6) Financial Review
Commissioner Raffo provided the details for the financials fiscal year to date and versus budget. A brief discussion was held of permit sales at Don's Dock and to see if the Commission could persuade another bait & tackle shop to also sell shellfishing permits.
- 7) New Business – None
- 8) A motion was made to adjourn at 7:12pm (Banister / Raffo) Voted 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark
Secretary