



Town of Stonington Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

REGULAR MEETING

June 2, 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. There is a quorum present.

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – None at this time.
- 3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of May 5th, 2022. The proper name of the publication that the brief description and picture was in was the Mystic Harbor Commission Newsletter. The Secretary made the change and a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as amended.
(Banister / Swenarton) 5-0.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) The Chair shared in the monthly packet a request by Hans Ingram to again address the Commission regarding the free diving and harvesting of oysters. He was unsure if he would be able to attend this evening's meeting, but the Chair had said the proper meeting to affect a change in Commission policy would be the February / March meetings.
- 5) Business
 - a) The Chair commented on the water quality samples for the month of May and called the Commissioner's attention to the fact that the recreational beds were open all month. Also in the packet was a copy of the memo from the State regarding the closure of conditional commercial relay areas in the Town. Also included in the monthly packet was a memo from Alissa Dragon of the State BA / DA asking about the nature of the contamination of INNER Quiambaug Cove. The Chair mentioned the number of samples needed for the Commission to be able to consider opening the Inner Cove to recreational shellfishing.
 - b) Purchase of clam stock discussion. A lengthy discussion regarding the need for clam stock for seeding the recreational areas was held. The Chair asked the Commission members to be thinking about an appropriate amount of dollars to consider spending to acquire transplantable clam stock. Traditional sources have borne no fruit and the State project using independent contractors to create refurbished oyster beds in the western part of the State by dredging existing clam beds, have their own traditional customers that are requesting the entire transplanted catch. One of the considerations of the size of clams to acquire was the cost of seed versus their survival rate and length of time of growth to maturity.

As an action plan, the Chair will contact 1) - Chris Walston of CW Shellfish who provides Clinton & Guilford with seed stock; 2) – ask Fred Emory about the cost of dredging the Towns deeper water natural beds with the thought to transplanting the catch to the recreational areas & 3) inquire of Jim Markow if his organization would have a significant number of clams of any size that they would sell.

- c) Review of the application of Stonington Farms Shellfish Inc. for licensing bottom from the Town. There was a question as to whether the application was for one parcel or two, and the application needed to be similar to the application made to the State. After a lengthy discussion and suggestions, the applicant and Commission decided to table the application at this time.
 - d) Commercial Shellfish Report – Kris Simonds reported that sales were good.
 - e) The Chair presented an offer made by NOAA Milford, CT lab for the transplanting of scallops into Stonington waters. The quantity was not great, but it was decided that however many the Town received the Commission would transplant them in the area off Barn Island as has been done before.
 - f) Equipment:
The recalibrated Davis rain gauge has been returned and now will look to have it reinstalled at the water treatment plant. The Town made new Open / Closed shellfish area signs. They are a great improvement from the existing signs, which will be saved as a backup. The Chair thought he would install them later in the season.
- 6) Financial Review:
The Chair and Commissioner Raffo reviewed the amount of collections and the Commissions current financial status. Under the payable category for boat maintenance there was an invoice from Don's Dock in the amount of \$2,410.93. A motion was made and seconded (Raffo / Swenarton) to pay the invoice. Voted 5-0 in favor.
- 7) New Business: There was no new business to be considered.
- 8). A motion was made and seconded (Raffo / Banister) to adjourn at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark
Secretary