Town of Stonington
Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

REGULAR MEETING
June 1, 2023
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; Secretary Mr. Austin Clark. There is a quorum present.

1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm.

2) Comments from the public – There were no comments from the public.

3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of May 4th, 2023. A motion was made and seconded (Banister / Raffo) to accept the minutes as presented. Voted 4 – 0.

4) Correspondence

a) The Chair shared with the Commission a May 5th, 2023 e-mail from Jeffrey Aselin concerning a pre-application form for a private dock on the Pawcatuck River.
b) In the monthly meeting packet was correspondence regarding the living shoreline project near the Mystic boathouse.
c) In the correspondence section was a copy of Steve Plant's application for a joint agency review for up to six bottom cages at his West Ram 1 site.
d) The Chair included a May 21st, 2023 e-mail from Don Procko regarding a change in the Masons Island Harbor Master duties, as Rufus Allyn has retired and the new Harbor Master is now Todd Burgess.
e) There was a brief e-mail from NOAA regarding surf clams.
f) The Chair shared in the monthly meeting packet, e-mail correspondence from Stephen McCabe regarding the Lockwood mooring field application.
g) The Chair shared correspondence between him and Tessa Getchis of UConn Sea Grant and Cary Chadwick of UConn Land Use and Research regarding navigational charting with the hopes of updating the Atlas feature.

5) Business

a) The Chair provided the water sampling quality sheet for the month of May, and noted the recreational beds were only open 13 days of the month. The water quality sampling showed great results, however. In the packet was a notice of closure of the conditionally restricted relay area for both Groton and Stonington. The Chair commented that this restricted relay area may get re-classified.
b) Included in this month's packet was correspondence from Bob Tabor and Docko Engineering regarding a proposed mooring near the shellfish beds in Outer Quiambaug Cove for a 63 foot trawler. The concern is that the mooring anchors proposed to use steel gear on the bottom.
c) The Chair shared a May 24th e-mail to Harbor Management Commission and area Harbor Masters notifying them of two pending aquaculture applications as submitted by Stonington Farms Shellfish. The applications were deemed complete and the Commission made a motion to hold a public hearing at our next monthly meeting, it was seconded and voted 4 – 0 (Banister / Raffo).

d) Commercial Shellfish Report
Garrett Timmons sent in a report of his status of his overwinter cages and bottom planted seed from last year. Both are doing well and he will start harvesting this week. The Chair brought to Kris Simonds attention that a Brian Navarro had complained to the Commission about the close proximity of Stonington Farms Shellfish activity to his dock in waters off Masons Island. Kris mentioned that he was aware of the area and the individual and would be careful in that area in the future.

e) The application by Patrick Ryan to construct a dock on the Pawcatuck River at 161 Mechanic Street was reviewed. Upon review, the Commission has No Comment on the application.

f) A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Commission's form – "Application to Conduct Aquaculture". It was suggested that the Commissioners could dedicate 15 minutes per meeting to review a section at a time to determine if they are all still relevant or could use updating.

g) The Chair has been in contact with JP at PMW Marine who has opened a small bait & tackle shop on Wequetequock Cove on RT 1, as he had expressed interest in selling shellfishing permits. The need for additional vendors was discussed as it was felt that Don's Dock may not continue selling permits after this season. The Secretary was tasked with approaching Shaffer's Marina in an attempt to have them sell permits.

h) Financial Review:
Commissioner Raffo present the YTD financials and the MTD collections were included in the meeting packet. Included in this information was the review of the Warden's time sheets.

6) New Business: Under new business the Commission provided to Kris Simonds a sample of a public notice document for his use to notify abutters regarding his applications and the July public hearing scheduled to be held.

7) A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:10pm. (Banister / Raffo) Voted 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin P. Clark

Austin P. Clark
Secretary