



## Town of Stonington Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

(Dec. 14, 2022)

A Special 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. There is a quorum present. Our warden, Rob Russell was also present.

1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.

The Chair read a letter that the Commission received in late October commending our warden, Rob Russell, for his assistance with a boater in distress. Rob towed the boat back to its mooring, and the author stated that “based on our brief encounter I can say that Rob is the type of person we want to represent our community”.

2) Comments from the public – There were none.

3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of November 3rd, 2022. A brief discussion was held and the Chair stated that he had more information concerning the three dock applications that he wanted to include and would pass those along to the Secretary, and that being the case a vote on the approval was tabled until the next meeting.

4) Correspondence:

- a) In the monthly meeting packet was an e-mail from one of Commissioner Banister’s former students, now himself a teacher, commenting on his scalloping efforts and commended the Commission for its efforts.
- b) Also included was an e-mail dated December 8, 2022 from Garrett Timmons of Harmony Sea Farm LLC forwarding an application to conduct aquaculture along the west shore of lower Wequetequock Cove near the railroad tracks.

5) Business

- a) The Chair reviewed the water quality sampling done during November and called to the Commission’s attention one reading at station 9, which was unexplainably quite high. The recreational beds were open all month, and upon re-test on December 5th, station 9 tested with good quality.

The State is scheduled to reopen Lower Mystic Harbor for the season on November 16th, but needed meat and water samples, which were provided on November 20th. The State then reopened the area on November 23rd. However, due to the Seaport Marina fire on November 27th, due to an abundance of caution and after consulting with David Carey of the State DA / BA, the area was closed for a week as the State had suggested. It was noted that the Town of Groton, also raised an issue on their side of the river. After a closure for a week, the Lower Mystic Harbor was reopen on December 5th. Again on December 7th, LMH and all three recreational areas were closed due to rainfall.

One other concern that was addressed by the warden and notice given to the area harbor master’s was that there is an anchored boat east of Mason’s Island in area B and officials are trying to locate the owner. The concern is if it goes aground or sinks with fuel onboard in area B.

- b) The Chair shared an e-mail from and to Fred Emery regarding the Commission’s clam transplanting operation.

To date the Commission has spent approximately \$867 of the \$1,000 budgeted for the fall and has purchased and transplanted about 2,700 clams primarily in Area A & B and received another 200 clams in kind for transplant from Kris Simonds of Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc

- c) Commercial Shellfish Report  
Kris Simonds mentioned that he was waiting for approval of the meat samples from the State, as he has the Christmas market demand to satisfy. Garrett Timmons said he was finishing up operations and had recently provided a cash and carry oyster outlet in the Stonington Marina.
- d) The summary of the annual remuneration from all license holders was included in the meeting packet. Those intending to provide in kind payments were reminded of the date that the Commission boat would be hauled and therefore the last date for accepting payments of in kind product.  
The Chair included the table for fees that the Commission would pay, and suggested that it might be time to review the fees.
- e) Enforcement: It was estimated that there might be one more time card for the warden's services for the year in a small amount.
- f) Equipment: the Commission's boat has been hauled and the warden noted a few items that will need to be repaired or replaced before the next season.
- g) Financial Review: The most recent fuel charges were identified as charges and a recent deposit summary was included in the packet.

Commissioner Raffo reviewed the YTD actuals versus budget showing a modest \$1,000+ surplus to be added to the Commission's account. In summary, income from permits sales are down, while license fees from the commercial acreage holders was up. It was mentioned that promoting the Commission's recent clam transplant program and continual oyster seeding might help the 2023 season's permit sales. The 2023\_24 Budget of Operations and monetary request from the Town was included and was similar to the previous year's operations.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark  
Secretary