



## **Town of Stonington Shellfish Commission**

*152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378*

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**February 3, 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. Also in attendance was our warden, Mr. Rob Russell.

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

2) Comments from the public – None

The Chair asked the members present if the meeting could proceed out of the normal order to accommodate the dock application presenter, who had another meeting to attend. As there were no objections, we proceeded to Item 5b).

Mr. Tim DeBartolomeo, President of Sound Engineering Associates, LLC presented the application of Niles Holdings, LLC for a dock to be built at 12 Niles Road Mystic. In the meeting packet, the application with plans, drawings and pictures of the site were presented. The Chair mentioned that as this location is located in a prohibited area for recreational shellfishing, and there were no other comments from the Commissioners. The Chair said he would complete the form and return it to the applicant.

3) Review and approval of the special meeting minutes of December 3, 2021 was called. Minor typographical corrections were mentioned, and motion was made and seconded ( Banister / Swenarton ) and voted to approve 5 – 0.

4) Correspondence

a) In the meeting packet is a copy of the letter sent to Dana Lewis of Stonington Aquafarms, Inc requesting his formal acknowledgement of the termination of his operations granted under license ACP-11, and the subsequent notification of his intention to maintain his operations and included his rent for the year.

b) The Chair mentioned a new idea of a monthly update from first Selectwoman, Danielle Chesebrough, for all Boards and Commissions. The first month's deadline had passed, but the Secretary commented that he would get a schedule of the deadlines for this monthly update and for the Stonington Magazine requests, so that the Shellfish Commission can be better prepared if we have content to include.

5) Business

a) The Chair presented the December water quality results and commented that the beds were open all month. January was also presented and the Chair mentioned that sampling was also done in inner Quiamabaug Cove and the results were good. Included in the packet was a notice of closure of the outer Stonington Harbor and correspondence from BA / DA regarding the Boro water treatment plant and need for tissue samples. OSH was reopened after the 21 day closure period.

b) See above.

- c) The Chair updated the Commission with regard to the remaining payment in kind from one of the license holders and mentioned that the oysters were spread in area A & B prior to Christmas.
- d) Commercial shellfishing report. Steve Plant mentioned that he experienced a good season. He also shared with the group a study conducted by a shellfishing group in Long Island concerning raising and transplanting hard shell clam seed. Steve said he would share the study to the Commission members by e-mail. Steve mentioned that since the Commission is in need of a source of hard shell clam seed, he mentioned that he would be interested in joining the Commission in developing a paddle wheel upweller for the development of hard shell clam seed.
- e) Financial Review. Included in the monthly packet was the annual budget submitted to the Town along with the Commission's mission statement. Income detail was presented along with the bills. A new tarp was purchased for the Commission boat and the bill for the annual winterization of the Commission boat was submitted for payment. A motion was made and seconded ( Swenarton / Raffo ) to pay \$1,090.47 to Don's Dock for the winterization.  
Commissioner Raffo presented and commented on the 2022 budget contained in the packet. The biggest change was in the income line item and revenue attributed to Don's Dock, due to the uncertainty of Don's to continue to sell shellfishing permits.
- f) Permit fees 2022\_23 year. Contained in the packet was a sheet listing the shellfishing permit fees and regulations of all the shoreline Towns. A lengthy discussion was held as to what the fees should be for Stonington for the coming year. The group was focused on the senior fee structure for both resident and non-resident categories. A motion was made and seconded ( Banister / Swenarton ) to increase the annual fee by \$5.00 for both those categories. The Chair mentioned that in March, the group would be asked to review the regulations to determine if any changes need to be considered.
- g) Equipment. The Chair mentioned to the group the Davis rain gauge has been relocated to his house in close proximity to his plastic gauge. Comparison readings will now be easier to be made. The Chair shared with group in the packet data comparisons made over a month's time.
- 6). New Business. – None
- 7). A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 8:06pm. ( Banister / Swenarton ).

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark  
Secretary