Town of Stonington
Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

REGULAR MEETING
August 4, 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; Secretary Mr. Austin Clark. There is a quorum present.

1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

2) Comments from the public – Bob Tabor of Lord's Point addressed the Commission with a suggestion of creating a Youth category in the Commission's shellfish permit sales. He suggested an age of between 13 and 16 as a category with a reduced permit fee or an Unaccompanied Youth age 10 to 16 category. The Chair welcomed the suggestion and mentioned that the Commission's January or February meeting was the proper forum in which to discuss this suggestion.

3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of July 14th, 2022 Special Meeting. The Chair provided clarification wording on the Mystic Harbor Management Plan, which was duly noted and recorded. A motion was made and seconded (Banister / Murphy) to accept the minutes as amended. Voted 3 – 0 with one abstention.

4) Correspondence

a) The Chair shared a July 20th, 2022 e-mail from Alissa Dragan where she has created an addendum to the MOU that increases the rainfall trigger to 1.5 inches of rainfall in Areas A, B & Outer Quiambaug Cove. Also in the packet was Alissa's July 27th e-mail memo regarding the status of Area B as Conditionally Approved Seasonal versus just Conditionally Approved. The e-mail also mentioned the area between Latimer Point and Andrews Island as an area of concern due to the small "marina" at Latimer Point.

5) Business

a) The Chair shared the water quality sampling and open & closed dates for the month. The Commission made two sampling runs during the month with good results. The Chair commented on the discrepancy between the Davis / online gauge and the existing plastic gauges in place.

b) Comments on the revision of the Mystic Harbor Management Commission's management plan were provided in the packet.

c) In the packet was a copy of the application from Coastline Consulting & Development, LLC for a dock permit located at One Great Marsh Road on Mason's Island in Stonington.

d) Commercial Shellfishing Report:
Garrett Timmons reported that his surf clam experiment did not meet expectations, and he thought perhaps is was due to the higher water temperatures. His oyster crop was good. Kris Simonds mentioned that his

seed development was behind schedule. Will McKay reported that his June & July numbers were good and that he was working on obtaining his captain's license as he is contemplating giving tours of his operation.

e) The application by Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc. was reviewed for completeness, for both the harvest site and the depuration grounds. After a minor name addition the application was deemed complete. The Commission will forward the application to the Bureau of Aquaculture.

f) Enforcement:
In order to help the State in there evaluation of Area B as a conditional area, it was suggested that if during Warden Rob's normal enforcement in the area, if he observes a number of boats rafting together in Area B or obvious overnight stays, that he try to document those conditions with photos.

g) Equipment:
A brief discussion was held about our on-going issues with the Davis rain gauge. Also our warden mentioned that while patrolling in inner Quiambaug Cove the prop on the Commission's boat made contact with a submerge rock, most likely, and would be in need of replacement.

6) Financial Review:
Commissioner Raffo presented the year to date actuals versus budget and noted that we are below budget. While expenses are on budget, the sale of permits is off considerably.
There was one invoice of a reimbursement expense in the amount of $332.30 that required a motion to pay. A motion was made and seconded (Clark / Raffo) and voted unanimously.

7) New Business: - None

8) Adjournment: - A motion was made to adjourn at 7:35pm and seconded (Banister / Raffo) Voted 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin P. Clark

Austin P. Clark
Secretary