



Town of Stonington Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

REGULAR MEETING

October 6th, 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. John Swenarton; 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 members of the public present and no comments made.
- 3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of September 1st, 2022. Commissioner Banister pointed out the proper spelling of David Carey, the State Bureau Director's name, and with that correction, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended (Banister / Swenarton) Voted 4 – 0.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) The Chair included in the meeting packet the annual request from the Town Clerk to complete the Commission's regular meeting schedule and request for meeting space for the coming year. It was agreed to keep the same format of the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm and to request the ground floor meeting room of the Town Hall as our meeting space. The Chair said he would file the paperwork.
 - b) Contained in the meeting packet, was an e-mail from Alissa Dragan, Supervisor BA / DA announcing staff changes that might impact sampling scheduling. Emily Marquis has moved out of the lab and Joe Decrecenzo will remain as the point of contact for lab inquiries.
- 5) Business
 - a) The Chair presented the water quality samples for the month of September and commented that in an abundance of caution, after a two day continuous event of rain greater than 2 inches, he waited two extra days to open the recreational beds.
 - b) Following up on the Commission's plans to purchase clam stock for the recreational beds, the Chair shared an e-mail he sent to Alissa Dragon asking about the current market for hard shell clams. It is the plan to spend \$1,000 in the fall and another \$1,000 in the spring of 2023. The Chair received a call from Fred Emery saying he had seven bags of clams he had just harvested and the Chair and Fred agreed on a price of \$32 per 100 count bag. The Commission procured the seven bags and has worked out the Town transplant permit and new vendor status for Fred. The Chair noted that, Fred was scheduled to harvest again on this date, but did not venture out.
 - c) Commercial Shellfish report:
Both Steve Plant and Garrett Timmons mentioned that they were preparing their beds with seed for the coming seasons. Kris Simonds replied when asked that it was his product that the Big Y is now selling.
 - d) A lengthy discussion was held regarding the collection of the remuneration from the commercial license holders for

the 2023 year. The need for cash for purchasing the clam stock was weighed versus the payment in kind of oysters to transplant into the recreational beds. The chair polled each Commissioner as to their recommendations, with Commissioner Clark and Banister opting for a cash payment this year, Commissioner Swenarton said he was leaning toward a payment in kind by receiving oysters and mentioned the Commission should probably promote our oyster availability to the public. The Chair, thought that giving the license holders a choice might be the way to proceed. It was noted that if cash was received the total remuneration for the coming year would be approximately \$3,100. The Chair said he would develop the wording when the invoices were prepared to be sent out.

- e) Preparation for the 2022_23 scallop season was presented with nothing changed from the previous year. As the Town Hall is short staffed, and election season is upon us, the only outlet for scallop permit sales is Don's Dock.
 - f) Under enforcement, the warden's time card was submitted for review.
 - g) Equipment: A brief discussion regarding the Davis rain gauge, its continued measurement issues and its location was held.
 - h) Financial Review: The Commission's boat fuel bills and printing of the scallop permits invoice was shared with the Commission.
- 6) New Business: Commissioner Clark mentioned that a few organizations in Town wanted to remember David Motherway, Jr and Katie Motherway said that contributions in David name to the new Veteran's Monument would be a way to honor David. In recognition of this and as a way of thanking David for his service to the Shellfish Commission, the Commissioners and a number of the commercial license holders contributed to a fund that Commissioner Clark will get to the Veterans Monument Committee in David Motherway, Jr's name.
- 7) Adjournment: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:18pm. (Banister / Swenarton) 4 - 0

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark
Secretary