



**Town of Stonington**  
**Shellfish Commission**  
*152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378*

REGULAR MEETING

February 2, 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; Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary Mr. Austin Clark. There is a quorum present.

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm and the Secretary reminded all that as his term as a Commissioner was just renewed but had not been reappointed by the Selectmen at their monthly meeting, which was scheduled later in the month, he would be an observer for this meeting.
- 2) Comments from the public – There were no comments from the public.
- 3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of November 3, 2022 and the special meeting minutes of December 14th, 2022. A motion to approve the November 3, 2022 minutes was made and seconded ( Swenarton / Banister ) and voted in favor, 3 – 0 with one abstention. The Chair made a suggestion as to the wording of the December 8th application made by Harmony Sea Farm mentioned in the December 14th, 2022 minutes. A motion was made and seconded ( Banister / Raffo ) to approved as amended. Voted 4 – 0.
- 4) Correspondence
  - a) The Chair called on Commissioner Clark to share his perspective on the recent annual gathering of State wide Shellfish Commission's and shared some of the handouts from the meeting. At the meeting, the State mentioned to the Chair, that they have completed the 12 year shoreline survey and Stonington's coast line review is complete.
  - b) The Chair shared with the Commission the verbiage that was submitted for the next issue of the Stonington Magazine. Commissioner Banister had a few suggested improvements in identifying Stonington as the source of the clams we have using to transplant into the recreational areas. The secretary was informed by the editor at the Westerly Sun, who publishes the magazine for the Town that the copy had already gone to the printers.
  - c) The Chair shared with the Commission, a couple pieces of correspondences he had with the Town of Groton regarding Groton's review of their procedure, wording and pricing for their commercial shellfish beds.
  - d) Included in the monthly packet was a copy of an e-mail from Dockco regarding an application by Lockwood Coveside Marina, but the applicant had requested that the application be considered at a future date, so it was tabled.
  - e) The Chair shared with the Commission, his recent actions regarding the storage of Shellfish Commission records. The Chair and Secretary recently met with Susan Cullen, Director of Economic & Community Development, to establish a Town handled e-mail address for the Commission, to identify what records should be stored under the Town's record keeping process and who might help with the scanning and storing of those records.
- 5) Business
  - a) The Chair shared the rain fall amounts and water quality samples for the months of December & January for the recreational areas. The two months combined saw more than 10" of rain.
  - b) On December 23rd, 2022, the Boro water treatment plant had a solids loss causing a closure of the Outer

Stonington Harbor. In the monthly packet were results of two meat samples taken during December. The closure of the Outer Stonington Harbor did not affect Fred Emery's grounds as they were quite a distance from the plant. The area was reopened on January 17th, 2023.

- c) The review of the Lockwood Coveside Marina application was tabled.
  - d) In the meeting packet was the status of the remuneration for the Town's commercial licensees. All but one has paid as of this date. This prompted a brief discussion as to use of licensed grounds with the thought that it might be time to review the language for making unused bottom available to other interested parties.
  - e) Commercial Shellfish Report:  
Steve Plant mentioned that demand is still very good and he predicted that there might be a shortfall in product availability next spring. Garrett had nothing to report and Kris Simonds said his boat had just been put back in the water.
  - f) The Chair called on the Commissioners to comment on completeness of the application of Harmony Sea Farm LLC to conduct aquaculture along the west shore of Wequetequock Cove. There were a few clarifying questions, but overall the members were impressed with the thoroughness of the application.
  - g) The Chair asked our visitor Bob Tabor to address the Commission regarding establishing a youth category of shellfishing permit. Currently, a child under 12 may accompany an adult without a permit. Various ideas as to the appropriate age for youths varied from under 14 to 13 to 16 or 17 to acquire a permit at no fee or at the same fee as a senior. The Commissioner generally agree that we should be trying to promote interest among this age group as to the benefits and enjoyment of shellfishing.
  - h) Financial Review: Review of the number of permit sales by category from previous years was held. Invoices from Don's Dock were reviewed and a motion to allocate \$1,800 for the payment of various invoices was made and seconded ( Raffo / Banister ) voted 4 – 0. Commissioner Raffo compared the budget versus actual for the year to date and presented the 2023 budget.
  - i) Fees for the 2023 season were discussed. Catch sizes and whether to reduce the allowed catch size for a daily permit were mentioned as something to consider for the future. A motion was made and seconded ( Banister / Swenarton ) to keep the fees and regulations the same as the previous year. Voted 4 – 0.
- 6). New Business – None appearing
- 7). Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made and seconded ( Raffo / Banister ) at 7:55pm and voted in the affirmative 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark  
Secretary