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

REGULAR MEETING
August 3, 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 6:33 pm.

2) Comments from the public – There were no comments from the public.

3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of July 6th, 2023. A motion was made and seconded (Banister / Murphy) to approve the minutes as presented. Voted 4-0 with 1 abstention.

4) Correspondence

   a) In the meeting packet this month was the reply from Kris Simonds responding to the Commission's request for a map showing the buffer area between his recently licensed area and the existing license area of Jim Markow. The buffer area shows just short of a 50-foot buffer. Kris stated that there are no Town regulations nor, per David Carey, any State requirements for any buffer, and thought that a 50-foot buffer would be sufficient to meet the Commission's request.
   b) The Chair included in the monthly packet his reply to the State DA / BA of their request for comment on the Harmony Sea Farm LLC's application for a shellfish aquaculture project in Wequetequock Cove.
   c) Also included in the meeting packet was an e-mail from the State DA / BA regarding a recent press release from the Department of Health regarding vibrio vulnificus infections. Connecticut shellfish have never been associated with vibrio vulnificus infections. The Chair mentioned that our website tells the public about keeping harvested shellfish cool.

5) Business:

   a) The Chair presented the water quality results for the month of July. He noted that from the 14th to the 16th we had almost 4inches of rainfall, causing the recreational beds to be closed for 10 days. The State closed Outer Stonington Harbor on July 7th due to the Boro treatment plant causing elevated sampling results. It was re-opened at sunrise on July 29th. In the packet was an e-mail from Alissa Dragan of the State DA / BA regarding the sampling from lower inner Quiambaug Cove and providing leads for testing for Tetrachloroethylene and Trichloroethylene.
   b) Included in the monthly packet was three years of water sampling data during adverse pollution conditions (APC). The State feels that Stonington has very good water quality.
   c) Commercial Shellfish Report. Kris Simonds mentioned that his seed is growing nicely, and the mandated Statewide closure did not hurt their operation. Kris mentioned that in September he hoped to have a draft of the license for the newly approved area. He also mentioned that he would work with the Commission on the fee for the new area with perhaps even a clause containing an inflation adjustment provision. Garrett Timmons sent an e-mail discussing his operations and mentioned that was quite a bit of sediment moving in Little Narragansett Bay.

d) Under the Commission's plan to review our application and guidance outline on the Commission's website, in section 2c) the word "may" is recommended to be changed to the word "shall". In September it was suggested that the Commission will review the "Guidance" section on the website.

e) A lengthy discussion was held as to the status of current shellfish permit sales and the concern of a lack of locations that sell the permits. The Chair asked Commissioner Clark to follow up with the Stonington Harbor Commission as to how they handle online mooring applications and payments.

f) Financial Review: Commissioner Raffo presented the current financial results which showed a net loss of around $4,000, but the Chair reported that he had collected from Don's Dock $4,400 that were not reflected in Commissioner Raffo's figures. The Warden's time sheets were included and an invoice for the repair of the leaning post on the Commission's boat for $450. A motion was made and seconded (Banister / Raffo) to allocate $450 to pay for the leaning post repair. Voted 5 – 0.

6) New Business – as there was none appearing

7) A motion was made and seconded at 7:55pm to adjourn (Raffo / Banister) Voted 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin P. Clark

Austin P. Clark
Secretary