



SPECIAL MEETING

December 2, 2021

6:30 PM

A Special Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on December 2nd, 2021 at the Stonington Town Hall ground floor meeting room. Members present were Chairman, Mr. Donald Murphy; Mr. Alan Banister; Mr. Donald Raffo; Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary Mr. Austin Clark and alternate member Mr. Bob Hollis. There was a quorum present. Also in attendance was our shellfish warden Mr. Rob Russell.

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – There were no comments from the public at this time.
- 3) Review and approval of the special meeting minutes of the November 4th, 2021 special meeting. The minutes from the November 4th meeting were included in the meeting packet. A motion was made and seconded (Banister / Murphy) to accept the minutes as presented. Voted 3 – 0 in favor with one abstention.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a). The Chair shared correspondence from Ted Burdacki pertaining to his interest in obtaining a wild harvest permit. The correspondence shared the requirements of the Commission with Mr. Burdacki.
 - b). The Town of Clinton was looking for assistance in updating their harbor management plan and was inquiring if the CT Sea Grant might be of help with resources and / or personnel.
 - c). In the meeting packet, a copy of the budget request from Stacy Haskell, in the Office of the First Selectman of Town, requesting completion and submission of the Commission's budget for the coming fiscal year. After a brief discussion The Chair was to complete it and reply to the Town.
 - d). The Chair shared an announcement from CT Sea Grant of their intention to resume their annual gathering of shellfish commissions on January 22nd, 2022. The Chair mentioned that he would attend and plan to drive. Commissioners Clark & Hollis both expressed interest in attending.
- 5) Business
 - a). The Chair provided the water quality monitoring report for the month of November. The Chair commented that the samples were all good and that he would get the Outer Quiambug Cove before month's end, to meet the requirement of five adverse samples.

In the packet was the Notice of Reopening of Lower Mystic River as there were less than 20 boats moored and the water samples were good. There was one meat sample submitted, and though bacteria count was high, BA / DA seemed fine with it. The Chair mentioned that the State has lowered the trigger point of rainfall to 1 & ½ inches from 2.0 inches. A list of our commercial harvesters was

supplied in the packet. The packet also contained the notice of seasonal shellfish areas being reopened.

- b). The Chair shared communication between he and Stonington Aquafarms operator Dana Lewis. Dana indicated that he as no longer growing oysters in his plot located between Andrews and Dodges Islands and intended to give up the aquafarm plot. The Chair asked the Secretary to write a formal letter to Stonington Aquafarms stating their intent and acceptance of relinquishment of the plot. Also, as a reminder, that the lease amount would be due by a check as the Commission boat was no longer able to accept payment in kind. Commissioner Raffo suggested we establish a deadline for the acceptance of the termination.
- c). The Chair and our warden brought the group up to date on the remuneration of the shellfish growers holding licenses.

d). Commercial Shellfishing report - No report.

- e). Equipment: Our warden informed the group of the plans to haul the Commission's boat from the water this following weekend.
The Chair reported that the interface between the Davis rain gauge and the Suez program is still problematic, as there seems to be a file missing. The location of the gauge and testing was further hampered by a more strict COVID policy at the water treatment plant.

- f). The Chair shared a request from CT Sea Grant to update the recreational shellfish harvest guide. Though the Commission did not foresee any changes, with the possible exception of the annual fees, he would request a delay until after our Commission discussed the issue in February.

- g). The Chair and Commissioner Raffo shared the financial data for the month and shared the breakdown in the packet of the type of shellfishing permit sales by category. And Commissioner Raffo predicted a modest surplus for the year of between \$500 and \$1,000.

- h). Budget preparation: It was the feeling that the Commission will once again be self-sufficient and the Chair would submit that position to the Town.

6) New Business - None

7). Adjournment – At 8:06pm a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. (Banister / Raffo) Voted 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark
Secretary