



SPECIAL MEETING

February 6, 2020

6:30 PM

A Special Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at Stonington Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Ave., Mystic, CT. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Donald Raffo, Mr. Peter Moore, Mr. Dan Barrett (alternate), Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman, and Mr. John Swenarton, Secretary.

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public (Comments on specific applications will not be allowed) - None
- 3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes on January 9, 2020 – A **motion** to approve the minutes with minor edits (Banister/Raffo) was approved unanimously.
- 4) Correspondence
  - a) An email chain dated January 10-13, 2020 between Donald Murphy, SSC, and Jim Carlton RE: information request – aquaculture packages.
  - b) An email chain dated January 23-30, 2020 between Donald Murphy, SSC, and Rachael Gaudio, Waller, Smith, and Palmer, P.C. RE: information request – SSC correspondence.
- 5) Business
  - a) Discuss the water quality testing and status of Stonington’s conditional recreational shellfishing areas - Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island (Area A and Area B) – Conditional areas were open from January 9 through the end of the month. Bacteria results from water sampling on January 6 and 14 were all very good. Don Murphy reviewed 2019 statistics on recreational bed status that showed beds were open approximately 50% of the time for both the entire year and the core season (May-Oct.)
  - b) Update on installation of an automated weather station at the Mystic Water Pollution Control Facility – The weather station has been installed. A request has been made to connect the station to the WPCF computer on site for internet access.
  - c) Commercial shellfishing reports – Jim Markow has received a License for Scientific/Resource Assessment from the Bureau of Aquaculture to survey former State lease grounds 405 and 395 in Little Narragansett Bay for determination of hard clam resource for placement on the Towns of Stonington and Groton recreational shellfish beds. Will MacKay reported a heavy barnacle set. Steve Plant reported he has had a permit reissued for the Noank dock area (CM-9) to store shellfish there.
  - d) Review for completeness the application by Stonington Aquafarms, LLC to conduct aquaculture near Andrews and Dodges Islands – A **motion** made to accept the application as complete and proceed on Track 2 of the application process (Moore/Banister) was approved unanimously.

- e) Set the permit structure, permit fees, and regulations for the 2020-2021 recreational shellfishing season. Act on the following specific items:
- Institute a daily and/or monthly permit. If approved, set the fees – A **motion** to implement daily licenses with fees of \$6 for residents and \$12 for non-residents (Raffo/Banister) was approved unanimously.
  - Reduce daily clam catch from ½ bushel (4+ gallons) to a peck (~2 gallons) – A **motion** for this reduction (Moore/Banister) failed 4-2.
  - Prohibit taking oysters while free and SCUBA swimming – A **motion** to implement this prohibition (Raffo/Banister) was approved unanimously.
- f) Set the fee for the yearly commercial harvest permit – SSC agreed not to change the fee this year.
- g) Discuss the hourly wage of the Shellfish Warden – Tabled for an executive session at a later meeting.
- h) Review collections and bills – A **motion** to allocate up to \$1500 to pay bills associated with SSC boat storage and winterizing (Raffo/Banister) was approved unanimously..
- 6) Adjournment – A motion to adjourn (Banister/Moore) was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John Swenarton  
Secretary