



SPECIAL MEETING

July 1, 2021

6:30 PM

A Special 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 – The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm. And the Chair thanked all those involved in securing our new venue and that this was our 1st meeting at the PNC.
- 2) Comments from the public – There were no comments from the public.
- 3) Review and approval of the special meeting minutes of June 3rd, 2021. Clarification and spelling corrections were made to the draft minutes. A motion was made and seconded ( Swenarton / Banister ) to approve the minutes as amended.
- 4) Correspondence
  - a) The Chair shared correspondence from Will Mackay regarding the identifying name of his aquaculture plot on the north side of Elihu Island. It was decided to call it Elihu North.
  - b) In the meeting packet, the Chair shared correspondence from Alissa Dragan from the State regarding the opening of the area between Liddy Island and Wamphassuc Point. Also, about finishing up the coastal survey and to determine if there were any other mooring areas that need to be identified.
  - c) The Chair informed the group of alternate member Dan Barrett’s decision to resign from his position on the Commission. The Chair informed the Board of Selectmen via the Administrative Assistant, Stacey Haskell.
  - d) Correspondence between the Chair and the DPW in Town concerning mowing of the grass strip on Mason’s Island Road near recreational area A. Editor’s note: That area has been nicely mowed.
  - e) Correspondence was included from Alissa Dragan regarding completing the shoreline survey and also access to Upper Quiambaug Cove to inspect for any exposed pipes. Alissa mentioned that the State BA DA has purchased a drone to help complete the survey.
  - f) In the meeting packet was a letter of thanks and high praise to our warden, Rob Russel for his skillful help of a sailor in distress on rocks off Wamphassuc Point.
- 5). Business
  - a) The Commission was presented a dock application by Damien Flanagan in the Lord’s Point section of Town. The Chair commented on the applicant’s intent to place spoilage rocks under the pier, and mentioned that that plan presents a tripping hazard. The Chair stated he would complete the necessary

form and make a comment to discourage rocks being placed under the pier

- b) The Chair presented the June water sampling results, showing the water to be clean and very good results.
- c) Commercial Shellfish Report

Garrett Timmons reported that he was relaying about a cage per week now that he is back up and operational. Steve Plant texted in comments that the market has gone from an overabundance of product in February to now where demand is good and product is in short supply. He also mentioned that flyers posted in local restaurants might be away to increase recreational shellfish interest.

- d) The Commission discussed the extensive correspondence from the Army Corps. of Engineers along with correspondence from Will Mackay of Little Narragansett Bay Oyster Company and his paperwork for gear expansion & floating cages. The discussion was regarding our process and the need for a public hearing or a new application. There is a time constraint with the Army Corp. approval, and upon review, the Commission concluded that we would follow our process, and felt that LNB Oyster Co. could still meet the US Army Corp's timetable.
- e) Mr. Alan Banister presented a report of his meeting with Tessa Getchis of CT Sea Grant and Dave Prescott of Save the Bay regarding oysters in the Pawcatuck River and the Living Shoreline Project at the Mystic River Boat House. In this project there would be ridge mussels grown among *Spartina alterniflora* grass and a berm of oysters located 30 feet below MLW. The Commission asked if there would be any literature describing what the project would look like.
- f) Recreational activity – no report. The Chair did opine that perhaps if the now vacant alternate Commission slot was filled, that the person filling that position should be tasked to work on the recreational aspects of the Commission.
- g) Equipment – It was reported that new Defender fenders have been purchased for the Commission boat, and there still seems to be an electronics issue that is being taken care of.
- h) Enforcement – Our warden mentioned that he has taken a fairly strict approach to those trying to take more than the legal limit.
- i) Under Financial review, the Chair mentioned that Don's Dock had requested more books of permits, as he was close to selling all that he originally had to start the season. The time cards and bills were reviewed.

- j) Adjournment - A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:37pm ( Banister / Raffo ).

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark  
Secretary