



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2019

6:30 PM

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm St., Stonington, CT. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Donald Raffo, Mr. Dan Barrett, Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary, Mr. Donald Murphy; Chairman.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – Dr. James Carlton provided a spoken and written response to comments offered at the June 6 public hearing for modifications to the Shellfish Commission’s guidance for applications and application form to conduct aquaculture in Stonington’s waters.
- 3) Review and approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on June 6, 2019 - A **motion** to approve the October 4, 2018 minutes (Banister/Barrett) as amended (addition of an email from Dr. James Carlton to J. Swenarton dated May 14, 2019 re: invasive species and aquaculture to correspondence) carried unanimously with Mr. Raffo abstaining.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) An email dated June 11, 2019 from Cori Rose, US Army Corps of Engineers, to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Application of Stonington Aquafarm, LLC.
 - b) A memo dated July 7, 2019 from SSC, to Distribution Re: Commercial Shellfishing Permit 19-02 (Lyddy Island Shellfish, LLC)
 - c) An email dated July 7, 2019 from Jim Carlton to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Stonington Shellfish Commission: June 6 Minutes.
- 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 June 1-10 and July 3-17 but were otherwise closed. Results from 5 sampling events were generally good.
 - b) Protocol for Sampling Harmful Algal Blooms – establishment of a phytoplankton sampling site in Area A – Sampling protocols for the Department of Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture (DABA) Phytoplankton and Biotoxin Monitoring Program emails from Emily Van Gulick (DABA) were reviewed. SSC will keep sampling equipment on the patrol boat and take a sample at Station 10 once per month.
 - c) Application by CTDEEP Wildlife Division to replace 4 culverts and install one new one to improve tidal flow at the Barn Island Wildlife Management Area- CTDEEP is seeking comments; SSC has no comment.
 - d) Edwin Emery’s proposal to harvest clams from Stonington waters – Mr. Emery is seeking to harvest on grounds that include wild harvest Area 1, which is east of Ram Island. SSC agreed to establish better, GIS-based boundaries of wild harvest areas. Mr. Emery will be providing SSC with 20% of his catch of clams for restocking of recreational areas.
 - e) Commercial Shellfishing Reports – Steve Plant reported good growth and additional sampling by DABA around the Mystic Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Facility maintained disinfection

of discharge water following a recent period of 4" of rain. Garrett Timmons also reported good growth and manageable algae in his lease area. Will MacKay inquired about buoys located at the mouth of the Pawcatuck River. Dana Lewis reported he recently got approval for marker buoys for his proposed depuration area.

- f) Public outreach – Discuss methods to increase the number of recreational shellfish harvesters in Town of Stonington waters – Dan Barrett expressed his concerns for limited parking and access to recreational areas and suggested hosting demonstration events and commercial shellfishing trips. Mr. Murphy suggested involving New England Sailing and Science and Mr. Raffo recommended increasing recreational bed restocking efforts.
 - g) Discuss the establishment of a separate recreational oyster harvesting season in Town of Stonington waters – The SSC warden has observed snorkelers taking more than their limit in oysters. SSC should consider a separate license for oysters and a separate season similar to the Town of Groton. Peter Moore will continue to investigate this.
 - h) Update on Revised Information Package and Application form – Mr. Murphy reviewed final edits to the package and form.
 - i) Review of finances; collections, bills, and remuneration – Recreational permit sales and recent bills were reviewed.
- 6) New Business – none.
- 7) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn (Banister/Raffo) was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Swenarton". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

John Swenarton, Secretary