



Town of Stonington
Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

A special meeting was held on this date online via WEBEX. Those in attendance were Chairman Donald Murphy; Mr. Alan Banister; Mr. Peter Moore; Mr. John Swenarton; alternate member Mr. Dan Barrett & alternate member Mr. Austin Clark, acting as Secretary for this meeting. Also in attendance was Mr. Rob Russell, Shellfish Warden.

1. Call to Order - Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.
2. Minutes - The chair asked if there were any errors, omissions or corrections of the minutes from the August 6th special meeting. Hearing of none, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes (Banister / Barrett)
3. Correspondence.
 - Letter dated August 18, 2020 to Dr. Stephen Malinowski of Fisher's Island Oyster Co. thanking him for the very generous donation of approximately 100,000 oyster seed.
 - Email dated August 18th, 2020 e-mail from First Selectwoman Danielle Chesebrough asking for a letter of support for the Boathouse on Mystic River project. It is an agenda item, which will be discussed later.
4. Business
 - a). For the month of August, the shellfish beds were not closed for one single day. It was a very dry month. The water sample results are included in the meeting packet.
 - b). The dates, fees & regulations for the upcoming scallop season were discussed. The Chair thanked and commended Dan Barrett for re-writing and clarifying the existing scallop regulations. These are included in the packet. The date of October 10, 2020 at sunrise was set as the opening day and March 31, 2021 at sunset was established as the last day of the season. A summary of the fees is as follows:

Resident One day permit:	\$3.00	Season:	\$16.00
Non Resident One day permit:	\$4.00	Season:	\$21.00
Seniors:	Free		

The method to harvest is still from a drifting boat with an 8" ring net.
The Chair made a motion that the above dates fees and regulations be established for the 2020_21 scallop season. Seconded by John Swenarton, all voted in favor.
 - c). A discussion was held relating to the 1st Selectwoman's request for a letter from the

Shellfish Commission in support of the boathouse on Mystic River project. It was pointed out that the location of the boathouse park was far enough up the River that the shellfish beds or oyster reefs would not be suitable for harvesting, but there is potential for both water quality and coastal resilience improvements. The Chair asked Mr. Alan Banister to help draft a letter to the First Selectwoman in support of the boathouse project.

- d). Shellfish gauge. Mr. Dan Barrett was asked to bring the group up to date on the new shellfish gauge design and cost estimates to produce. The design is included in the meeting packet. The chair showed the style gauge that is used in Rhode Island, which is rectangular in shape and measures the thickness of the clam as acceptable to harvest, versus the inch & ½ ring used in CT. It was queried if the design could be made from plastic to help with a lower cost. The Chair asked Mr. Dan Barrett, assisted by Mr. Alan Banister and Mr. Austin Clark, as a committee to explore all options and present their findings.
- e). Enforcement Warden Rob Russell mentioned that people clamming in area B have been getting their limit. He also mentioned that he noticed a boat moored near the aquafarm area in lower Wequetequock Cove and asked if the Commission could remind the Stonington Harbor Commission of the boundaries of the plot. He noted that he felt due to the COVID situation, there are many more boats in the local waters
- f). Commercial Report Mr. Garrett Timmons reported that his commercial seed are doing well and the water quality is good. He expressed concern about the location of a new marina.
- g). Review of bills The Commission's finances were reviewed and the only invoice for payment was a printing expense for making additional maps. The Chair called for a motion to approve the payment of the invoice, seconded & passed unanimously. (Banister /Moore)
Warden Russell mentioned that he felt that due to the extra hours that have been logged on the Commission boat, that a new prop will be needed and that there is a small oil leak in the engine.

5 Adjournment:

At 7:32 pm a motion to adjourn was made & seconded (Banister /Barrett).

Respectively Submitted,



Austin P. Clark,
Acting Secretary