



Town of Stonington Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

Special Meeting Minutes September 12, 2019

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at Stonington Middle School (formerly Mystic Middle School.), 204 Mistuxet Avenue, Mystic, Ct. Members were Mr. Dan Barrett, Mr. Donald Raffo, Peter Moore- Acting Secretary and Mr. Donald Murphy- Chair.

1) Call to Order – Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2) Comments from the public – No public comments.

3) Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting August 1, 2019 – A motion to approve the August 1, 2019 minutes (Raffo/Barrett) was carried 3-0 with Mr. Moore abstaining.

4) Correspondence

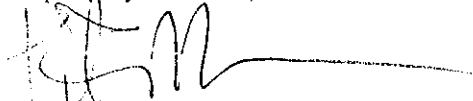
- a) An email from David Provencher- Coastline Consulting dated August 8, 2019 regarding the review of a DEEP Permit for a private dock project at 323 River Road, Pawcatuck, CT. He requests this project be added to the agenda of the next SSC meeting.
- b) A letter from Docko, Inc. dated August 23, 2019 regarding the review of a DEEP Permit for a private dock at Salt Acres, Stonington, CT for Louise Callahan. They request this project be added to the agenda of the next SSC meeting.
- c) A letter from Docko, Inc. dated August 27, 2019 regarding the review of a DEEP Permit for a private dock at Salt Acres, Stonington, CT for John Fullerton. They request this project be added to the agenda of the next SSC meeting.
- d) A copy of Town Recreational Relay (Transplant) License - CT 137/T- issued 8/26/2019 to the SSC to move hard clams from Lot 19-02 to Area A and Outer Quiambaug Cove. The clams are being harvested by Edwin Emery. 20% of Mr. Emery's total catch is paid to the SSC as compensation as per the licensing agreement.

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 B) – Conditional areas were open August 1-12 and 24-27 and closed August 13-23 and 28-31, right through the Labor Day holiday. This summer, the conditional areas have been closed half the time. Testing was generally good.
- b) Set opening date, permit fees, and regulations for 2019-2020 scallop season in Stonington waters – The scallop season will open at sunrise Saturday, October 12, 2019 and close at sunset March 31, 2020. There are no changes in limits, permit structure, or fees. The permit fees for Stonington residents are Daily- \$3 and Seasonal- \$16. Non-Residents are Daily - \$4 and Seasonal - \$21. Seniors (65+) are free. They are entitled to a bushel a day.
- c) Application by Louise O'Callahan to construct a 119 foot by 5-foot dock on the north shore of Little Narragansett Bay near Edwards Point – No comment from the SSC.

- d) Application by John Fullerton to construct a 140 foot by 5-foot dock on the north shore of Little Narragansett Bay near Edwards Point – No comment from SSC.
- e) Application by Summit Street Development, LLC to construct a 25 foot by 4-foot fixed pier, 28-foot ramp and 10 x 16-foot float on the west shore of the Pawcatuck River neat Certain Draw Point – No comment from the SSC.
- f) Edwin Emery's proposal to harvest clams from Stonington Waters – Ed Emery has been dredging for clams Lot 19-02 off of Lord's Point near lower Quiambug Cove since July. As per our licensing agreement, Mr. Emery gives 20% of his catch to SSC. To date we have received and distributed 4000 hard clams in the 2-4" range. Because of his success, Mr. Emery has asked the SSC if they would add an area near Ram Island to his permit. The island is uninhabited and there are no moorings or commercial activity in the area. Mr. Emery's dredging activities off of Lord's Point has stirred up the bottom enough to draw in marine life to feed. There has been an increase to scup caught in this area. The SSC added the area east of Ram Island to Mr. Emery's wild harvest license.
- g) Commercial Reports – Will Mackay's grow out area has been renamed LNB-1 (Little Narragansett Bay -1) and his depuration site is WB-1 (West Breakwater-1.) He is finally getting his licenses and permits in order to begin shipment of product. Steve Plant reported things are going well and continues to harvest in an area that he thought was barren. He also continues to follow up on the MOU for the Mystic River. Garrett Timmons reported a slow summer with a lot of oyster death from blue crabs. Blue crabs seem to be more prevalent this year.
- h) Recreational Outreach
- i) Stonington Middle School Outdoors Club Shellfishing Program – This year's SMS outing is Thursday, September 26 at 3 PM at the Gleysteen dock near the Mason's Island Causeway. The program will run until 4:30 and includes giving the kids a chance to collect some clams.
- ii) Report from Dan Barrett – Dan Barrett submitted a report on public access and parking nearing Area A and B (area around Mason's Island Causeway) and near lower Quiambug Cove (Lindberg Road on Lord's Point.) Based on Dan's investigation, the Town mowed an area off DuBois Drive that will allow an additional 8 cars to park and access the recreational shellfish areas.
In addition, Dan prepared a draft of a new recreational shellfish regulations pamphlet that includes a map that includes the shellfish areas, access points and parking.
- i) Review of Finances; collections; bills and remuneration – Mr. Raffo announced our interest income has increased substantially since May. The Town has switched money market accounts and thus we earned more interest than in the past (approximately \$6.25 vs \$33.). Mr. Raffo also reported that, so far, this years' income is tracking approximately the same as last years'.
- 6) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a motion (Barrett/Raffo) to adjourn was made and approved 4-0. The meeting concluded at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Moore
Acting Secretary