



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

SPECIAL MEETING  
October 8, 2020  
6:30 PM

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission on October 8, 2020 was held online via WEBEX. Members present were: Chairman Mr. Donald Murphy; Mr. Alan Banister; Mr. Peter Moore; alternate member Mr. Dan Barrett; alternate member Mr. Austin Clark, acting as Secretary for this meeting. For this meeting the alternate members were voting members. Also in attendance was Mr. Rob Russell, Shellfish Warden.

- 1) Call to Order - The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.
- 2) Comments from the public (Comments on specific applications will not be allowed) – None
- 3) Review and approval of the minutes of the September 3, 2020 special meeting - The Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to the other than the Chair's minor edits contained in the meeting packet. It was noted that Mr. Peter Moore was in attendance. As well as the note of a boat moored near the aquafarm area in lower Wequetequock Cove, it was noted the proper authority to inform of this situation is the Stonington Harbor Management Commission. Hearing of no further additions or corrections a motion was made and seconded (Banister / Moore) to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.
- 4) Correspondence
  - a) E-mail dated September 3, 2020 from the Department of Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture (DA/BA) requesting information on the amount of money the Commission has paid on clams since March 2020. The Commission replied that we had expended \$1,920 for approximately 10,000 clams on May 21, 2020.
  - b) E-mail dated September 14, 2020 from Shannon Kelly (DA/BA) forwarding an application by Will MacKay to add floating bags over his existing bottom cages on his license area south of Elihu Island
  - c) E-mail dated September 30, 2020 e-mail from Will MacKay regarding his application from Little Narragansett Bay Oyster Company.
- 5) Business
  - a) Water Quality - The Chair mentioned that there were no bed closures during the month of September with the water results in the packet.
  - b) Scallop Season - The notice to interested parties about the upcoming opening of the scallop season is in the packet.
  - c) Gauge - The Chair asked the shell fish gauge committee to update the group on recent developments and progress. Alan Banister mentioned the interest of Pine Point School students in

- designing, coding and producing a gauge of their own design and a second group of students to work with the "kite" design the Committee has adapted. The Committee and School are looking at a hardened plastic gauge capable of being produced on a 3-D printer. Equipment
- d) Enforcement - The need for enforcement has slowed down with the season. A question was raised if the oyster seed that were transplanted would be ready for October/November harvest. Warden Russell thought he would be able to use a spotter box to determine the current size of the oysters.
  - e) Equipment – In this month's packet the storage information and estimates from Don's Dock are outlined.
  - f) Commercial Shellfish Report – Steve Plant reported that he noticed that June was a slow growth month on his farm, but August was very good. He also noted the difference in regional wholesale markets between the big cities of Boston and New York versus the smaller markets in Connecticut. Will MacKay reported that he has noticed many of his oysters have a boring sponge on them which makes for a brittle shell and not a good ½ shell product.
  - g) Little Narragansett Bay Oyster Co. application - Will discussed his application and identified the corner points and stated there is no conflict with existing grow cages. The Chair indicated he would respond to the Aquaculture Commission regarding Little Narragansett Bay Oyster Company's application, and as it is a change in use, would review it as a new application.
  - h) 2020 Commercial remuneration - The amounts due from the various commercial shellfish operators were discussed and the Chair informed those present that payment in kind would also be accepted.
  - i) Invoices - There is one invoice for printing the printing of scallop season permits. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to pay the invoice for \$63.00 from AGJO for the printing of scallop permits. (Banister /Moore).

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:34pm and passed unanimously (Banister /Moore)

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark

Acting Secretary