



SPECIAL MEETING  
November 5, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date online by WEBEX. Members present were Chairman, Mr. Donald Murphy; Mr. Alan Banister; Mr. Donald Raffo; alternate member Mr. Dan Barrett; Mr. John Swenarton; and alternate member Mr. Austin Clark, acting as Secretary for this meeting. Also in attendance was Mr. Rob Russell, the Commission's Shellfish Warden.

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.
- 2) Review and approval of the special meeting minutes of October 8, 2020 – A **motion** to approve the minutes as written (Banister/ Barrett) was approved unanimously, with John Swenarton abstaining.
- 3) Correspondence
  - a) A letter dated September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 to the Shellfish Commission from Susan Marquardt, an Engineer with Loureiro Engineers for a new dock application at 28 Schoolhouse Rd Mystic,
  - b) A letter dated September 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 from Fred Wagner of the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council seeking interest of any member for alternate membership on the Council.
  - c) A copy of the letter that was addressed to the First Selectwoman, Danielle Chesbrough, in support of the grant for the Mystic River Boathouse Park.
  - d) An e-mail dated October 16, 2020 from Will MacKay regarding an application for the North side of Elihu Island.
- 4) Business
  - a) Water Quality – Discussion was held re: 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 as there had been no rainfall. In order to open Lower Mystic River conditional area, we are awaiting the results of the meat sample
  - b) Dock Application - Mr. Chandrasekhar Naik was in attendance and discussed his application for a new dock on his property on Schoolhouse Road on Mason's Island near an area known as Clam Point. Mr. Banister voiced concern as to the proximity of the Commercial Aquaculture beds, but Steve Plant mentioned that this dock application is not even close to his operation.
  - c) Shellfish Gauge - Alan Banister updated the group on the students' progress on the shellfish gauge. They switched to a laser cutter from a 3-D printer. He had a sample to show. The Chair asked Austin Clark and Alan Banister to drop off their respective samples for Rob our Shellfish Warden to study and comment upon.
  - d) Enforcement – Shellfish Warden Rob Russell reported that there do appear to be any bay scallops in any of the traditional locations. Also, the transplanted oyster seed in Area A & B have reached almost legal limit of 3". Austin Clark mentioned that due to the amount of transplanted oysters it might be time to consider land based volunteer Shellfish Constables to check for permits, size, and limit of the catch.
  - e) Equipment – Rob remarked that the Commission boat is operating smoothly and running better than he had mentioned at last month's meeting.

- f) Commercial Shell fishing Reports - The Commercial operator's present reported that volume was down due primarily to the lack of a market to supply the product. They also mentioned that there does not appear to be any bay scallops present this year.
  - g) Commercial Remuneration - The Chair reviewed the amounts due from the Commercial operators and mentioned that Commission would accept "payment in kind" from the operators. Steve Plant mentioned that the commercial operators were ready to make payment in kind. Rob mentioned with the warm weather he would pick a date and plan receiving their payment. Collections & Bills - There were no bills to approve to be paid. Don Raffo reported that it looks like at year's end, we will have a shortfall of approximately \$500, but there may be about \$1,000 in collections yet to be received.
- 5) Adjournment - A motion to adjourn (Banister/Raffo) was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark  
Acting Secretary