



REGULAR MEETING  
November 7, 2019  
6:30 PM

A Regular Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Avenue, Mystic, CT. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Donald Raffo, Mr. Dan Barrett (seated as a regular member), Mr. Peter Moore, Acting Secretary, and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chair.

- 1) Call to order – Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- 2) Public Comment – None.
- 3) Review and approval of minutes of regular meeting of October 3, 2019 – A **motion** to approve the October 3, 2019 minutes as written carried unanimously with Mr. Bannister abstaining.
- 4) Correspondence
  - a) An email dated October 5, 2019 from Janet McClendon Vaskas to Donald Murphy thanking Warden Robert Russell for assisting her when her sailboat ran aground on Sandy Point and then towing the vessel to her mooring in the Harbor.
  - b) An email dated October 15, 2019 from William MacKay to Donald Murphy regarding his 2019 oyster remuneration to the SSC. Mr. MacKay also inquired whether the SSC would co-manage a depuration bed with NESS. Mr. MacKay was informed the SSC does not engage in co-managing aquaculture beds.
  - c) An email dated October 30, 2019 from Kristin DeRosia-Banick to Donald Murphy with an attached copy of the signed Mystic Harbor Management Plan and the MOU. This document was signed by the CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture (DA/BA), the Town of Stonington, and the Groton Shellfish Commission for the management of the seasonal conditional shell fishing area in the lower Mystic River.  
The opening of the Mystic Harbor Seasonally Conditionally Approved area can occur following the collection of water and meat samples the meet water quality standards, and following winterization or removal of boats from the mooring fields.
  - d) An email dated October 25, 2019 from David Carey to Donald Murphy regarding problems at the Stonington WPCF plant that has caused further disruption in turbidity. As a result, Outer Stonington Harbor has been closed until a plant lab result is available. If the WPCF continues

to have issues, the closure will remain in effect until they settle out and regain normal operations.

- e) An email dated October 28, 2019 from Tara Galbo to Donald Murphy requesting a copy of Stonington Aquafarms LLC (Dana Lewis) application to conduct aquaculture in Quiambaug Cove dated June 2, 2018.
- f) An email dated October 29, 2019 from Kristin DeRosia-Banick to William Cavers. Mr. Cavers is a member of the Darien Coastal Advisory Committee and is tasked with looking into revisiting shellfish licensing in Darien. The email has cc'd Donald Murphy and Roger Sherman and asked them to provide their town shellfish management plans and a copy of their license agreement for town grounds so Mr. Cavers can see how they are managing that process in other towns.

#### 5) Business

- a) Discuss the water quality testing and status of Stonington's conditional recreational shellfishing areas – Area A and B (East Mason's Island) and Outer Quiambaug Cove – Area A and B were open October 1-8 but closed October 9-31 due to three significant rain events on October 9 (1.07”), October 16-17 (2.08”) and October 27 (3.04”). Testing on October 23 showed elevated levels of fecal coliform at 2 testing sites, one of which was in a Restricted Relay area.
- b) Discuss the final version of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the winter opening of lower Mystic Harbor – The MOU has been signed by the authorized officials and the agreement is now in effect. A rain gauge has been ordered by the State and will be installed at the Mystic Sewer Treatment plant.
- c) Commercial Shell Fishing Reports – Garrett Timmons reported nothing new. Will MacKay's depuration area has been closed by the State because of turbidity issues at the Stonington Sewer Treatment Plant. Steve Plant had an excellent season and is still busy. He is looking forward to using the lower Mystic River area.
- d) Discuss plans for storing the shellfish boat for the winter and docking for the 2020 season – Peter Moore was asked by the Chair to explore the possibility of storing the SSC boat at a Town owned facility rather than at Don's Dock in an effort to reduce costs.
- e) Discuss plans for oysters received as remuneration and identify the recreational areas where they will be transplanted – Little Narragansett Bay Oyster Co., \$102; Harmony Sea Farm, LLC., \$300; Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc., \$504; CT Cultured Oysters/Aeros Oyster Co., \$205.20; CT Cultured Oysters, \$55.20. All the oysters received as remuneration will be placed on the bottom at Recreational Area A.
- f) Review of finances; collections and bills – A motion was approved (Bannister/Raffo) to spend \$60.50 to print the seasonal permits for the 2019-2020 scallop season.

#### 6) New Business –

Alan Bannister recently attended a Clean Water Workshop that was presented by the Nature

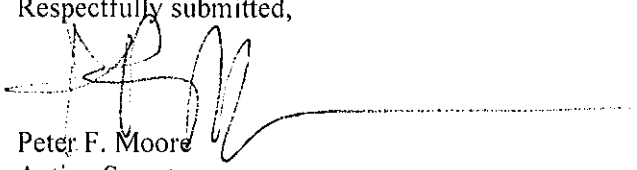
Conservancy and attended by NESS, CUSH, Save The Bay and UConn. There will be a follow up meeting in the near future and the Commission agreed Alan should attend.

Dan Barrett presented a draft of a new recreational shellfish map of Stonington and included the current rules and regulations. The plan is to have it ready for use in 2020.

Peter Moore discussed his visit with Groton Shellfish Warden Richard Conant. He also discussed ideas to help reduce SSC operational costs. The Chair instructed him to explore boat storage at a Town facility for the winter. There was also discussion of the reducing catch sizes, an issue to be finalized at the SSC February 2020 meeting.

- 7) Adjournment – A motion was carried (Raffo/Barrett) to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter F. Moore  
Acting Secretary