



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

SPECIAL MEETING  
December 10, 2020  
6:30 PM

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. For this meeting alternate member Mr. Dan Barrett is a voting member. .

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – A member of the public, Mr. Paul Naumann of 22 Schoolhouse Rd Mystic joined the meeting to make comment on the Naik dock application that was originally scheduled on the agenda for this meeting. By request of the applicant and the applicant’s engineering firm, that review was postponed until the January meeting. The Chair explained to Mr. Naumann the Shellfish Commission’s role in the approval process and suggested he direct his comments to the DEEP application, as the Commission comments only on the proposed application impact on shellfish beds.
- 3) Review and approval of the special meeting minutes of November 5, 2020 – A **motion** to approve the minutes as written (Banister/ Swenarton) was approved unanimously.
- 4) Correspondence
  - a) The Chair mentioned the e-mail correspondence in the packet regarding access to and acceptance of a rain gauge located at the Mystic ( ?? **Is it the Mystic water pollution facility ??** ) plant. The State mentioned that Groton would be willing to share the cost of maintaining the gauge as a shared asset.
  - b) On December 1, 2020 the Chair, sent to the First Selectwoman’s office the Commission’s 2020\_21 budget for review.
  - c) An e-mail to the BOS on December 2, 2020 to inform them of Mr. Peter Moore’s desire to become an alternate member of the Commission and to replace his position with one of the alternate members. By agreement of the alternate members, Mr. Austin Clark will assume the position of Member.
  - d) The packet contains a letter to Ms. Diana Owen, Head of School at Pine Point School thanking the school and her students for their interest and efforts in the design of the shellfish gauge.
  - e) An e-mail from the Chair to Steve Plant I forming Steve of the need to renew his license agreement for the area formerly known as B-1 now called West Ram-1. During the exchange Steve also mentioned that he has sent an e-mail today, December 10, 2020 with comments about the revised dock application.
  - f) A letter from Susan Marquardt, Engineer for the Naik dock application with revisions to the original plan, and a subsequent e-mail on December 8<sup>th</sup> asking to table the discussion and consideration by the Commission until the January meeting.
- 5) Business
  - a) The water quality results were distributed in the meeting packet and the Chair commented on the very high fecal counts at the beginning of the month after the very heavy rain at the end of November. The rest of the month produced very good water quality results. Lower Mystic River conditional area was opened on November 20<sup>th</sup>, but

needed to be closed on Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>. During the water sampling runs on December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Chair and Warden Rob Russell, inspected the areas of oyster transplants, as the water was very clear and the Chair reported that many of the seed were now adult in size.

- b) The next original agenda item was for the dock application at 28 Schoolhouse Rd has been tabled.
- c) The Chair called on the members for their comments on the completeness of the application from Little Narragansett Bay Oyster Company for an aquaculture area on the North side of Elihu Island. The Chair mentioned that a picture of the boat was needed. The applicant, Wil Mackay sent that along during the meeting. He also stated that this location was changed from the original application due to a water line that serves the island and that the new location was approved by Mr. Bates of the island. The Chair called for a motion to accept the application which was made and seconded ( Clark / Banister ) and approved unanimously. The Chair reminded all that the next step would be a public hearing and asked the applicant if any timing was critical, but thought that a hearing in January or February would be when it would be scheduled. The Chair assigned the unique number to this file as AQP – 122020.
- d) Update on shellfish gauge. The Chair called on Mr. Alan Banister who updated the members of the work the students at Pine Point School did. Mr. Clark showed the members the prototype that used the “kite” design and stated that he had been working with the Town’s COMO Outreach department on coding the design for use with a laser cutter. The group felt that we should have a business plan in place if we want to go ahead and have the gauges commissioned to produce a production run. And all felt we should perhaps suggest we produce a test run of perhaps 20 units to see how the gauge would look.
- e) Under Enforcement, the Chair informed the members that the Warden Rob Russell’s time is winding down as shown by his time cards in the packet.
- f) Equipment - The Commission’s boat has been pulled from the water and was power washed. Winterization is due to be performed shortly, with that expense showing up in January 2021.
- g) Commercial shell fishing reports – Steve Plant reported that with restaurants not able to seat as many indoors, commercial sales have fallen off.
- h) Review of the Remuneration - The Chair provided and reviewed the payments from the aquaculture lease holders in Town showing that all lease holders have paid in full. The Commission applied for one permit from the State to accommodate all the separate payments that were made in kind and were transplanted into our local recreational waters, primarily Area A. In total the Commission estimates that 6,400 oysters were transplanted. With the Commission boat out of the water, it was mentioned that this might be the time to look at a program of land based volunteer “wardens or constables”.
- i) Financial Review – The Chair briefly itemized the bills that were part of the packet; including fuel invoices from Don’s Dock and renewal of the Commission’s website domain. Permit fee collections, and amounts outstanding were identified.  
Don Raffo provided explanation and detail to the budget figures in the packet and felt the Commission would end the year with an estimated \$1,500 to \$1,700 surplus, which he felt was necessary for the amortization and carrying cost of the Commission boat and motor.
- 6) Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made and seconded (Raffo / Banister) and was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark  
Acting Secretary