



Town of Stonington Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

SPECIAL MEETING

August 5, 2021

6:30 PM

A Special Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date. . Members present were Chairman, Mr. Donald Murphy; Mr. Alan Banister; Secretary Mr. Austin Clark; There was the minimum quorum present.

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – There were no comments from the public.
- 3) Review and approval of the minutes of the July 1st, 2021 special meeting. Mr. Alan Banister explained the term *Spartina alterniflora* grasses and the Chair pointed out a typo, and the minutes were approved as amended. (Banister / Clark)
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) The Chair reminded all of a note from Stacey Haskell that if we change or cancel a meeting to be sure to let the PNC know of the change.
 - b) Included in the meeting packet was a copy of the letter to Dan Barrett thanking him for his past service to the Commission.
 - c) In the packet was a Pre-Submission form for a dock application.
- 5) Business
 - a) The Chair covered the water testing and rainfall totals for the month of July. Storm Elsa on July 9th, produced 1.58 inches of rain, closing the beds, but they reopened on the 17th. On the 20th the bacteria count was high, and the Chair reported that the same occurred in Groton & Waterford / East Lyme. It was thought that it might be a delayed reaction from upriver. With the rain today on the date of the August meeting, the beds are closed, but the Chair was hopeful the testing on the following Monday, would produce clean results.
 - b) The Chair reported that the Department of Agriculture / Bureau of Aquaculture must complete a shoreline review every 12 years. The Commission helped with the area of Upper Quiambug Cove and the mooring areas of Lord's Point.
 - c) Commercial shellfishing report – Will Mackay reported that he is starting to get his operations underway.
 - d) Review of the application of Little Narragansett Bay Oyster Company's application. Will Mackay explained that he intended to use the cages from May to November and described the design of the bags and cages. The Chair reminded Will that he needed to be in touch with the US Army Corps of Engineers and that the Commission will need to have a public hearing on his application. Will further addressed that he did not have any concerns of the heavy boat traffic at Sandy Point and the no wake speed would not affect his operation. The Chair reminded Will that an advertisement needs to be placed in local papers two weeks before the hearing and set the date of the Commission's next regular meeting of September 2nd for the

public hearing.

- e) Commissioner Banister reviewed the Living Shoreline project at the Mystic River Boathouse, that was raised at July's special Commission meeting. He spoke with the project engineer, Mark Georgian and the developers Kent & Frost. Alan looked at the details of the five alternatives that the developers are considering for the shoreline:
- i) Do nothing
 - ii) Build a bulkhead along the shore
 - iii) Build a pyramid shaped stone sill beyond MLW using some *Spartina alterniflora*
 - iv) Level the marsh to the sill level using the dredge material for fill
 - v) Build a sloping marsh to the sill

The developer's plan is to use rib mussels and *Spartina alterniflora*. They had studied using oysters, but came to the conclusion not to use oysters in the project due to the potential of ice in the winter.

- f) Equipment – The Commission purchased new fenders for the boat and the electrical issue seems to be solved.
 - g) Enforcement - Our warden, Rob Russell stated that this past month has been slower than usual.
 - h) Financial review – The meeting packet contained the financial update versus budget, and the Chair mentioned that he had collected almost \$1,800 not reflected in the attached sheet. The Chair mentioned that Don's dock had sold almost a half a book of daily permits, and thought the Town Hall should be offering the same. Our warden, asked if the locations selling the daily permits would put the effective date in big red magic marker so he could see it easier from the boat. The time cards and invoices were reviewed.
- 6) New Business – there was no new business to come before the Commission.
- 7) The Chair called for a motion to adjourn at 7:36pm. It was moved and seconded (Banister / Clark).

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark
Secretary