



Town of Stonington
Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2019

6:30 PM

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm St., Stonington, CT. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Donald Raffo, Mr. Peter Moore, Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary, Mr. Donald Murphy; Chairman.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – None.
- 3) Review and approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on December 6, 2018 - A **motion** to approve the October 4, 2018 minutes (Banister/Raffo) carried unanimously with Mr. Moore abstaining.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) An email dated December 12, 2018 from Christina Lopes, Docko Inc. to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: DEEP consultation form for Coletti property.
 - b) A letter dated December 13, 2018 from Tim Guilini, Stonington Farms Aquaculture to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: license remuneration.
 - c) An email dated January 21, 2019 from Rachel M. Gaudio, Waller, Smith, and Palmer, P.C. to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: request for document to be discussed under agenda item “j”.
 - d) An email from Donald Murphy, SSC to Rachel M. Gaudio, Waller, Smith, and Palmer, P.C. Re: reply to document request
 - e) A letter dated January 23, 2019 from Steve Plant, CT Cultured Oyster to SSC Re: license renewal for AQP-07-2008-2018.
- 5) Business – A motion to move to agenda item 5b (Swenarton/Moore) was approved unanimously
 - b) Application by Mr. David Coletti to construct a 136 ft by 4 ft wide fixed wood dock with a pile-supported boat lift on the north shore of Mason’s Island – SSC had no comment. Mr. Murphy will forward the Permit Consultation Form to CT DEEP.
 - a) Discuss the water quality testing and status of Stonington's conditional recreational shellfishing areas - Outer Quiambug Cove and East Mason's Island (Area A and Area B) – Conditional areas were opened on January 10, closed on January 23 and then re-opened on January 29. Results from sampling on January 5, 11, and 19 were all excellent. There was a discussion of a precautionary closure of all Stonington waters mandated by DA/BA due to a report of norovirus.
 - c) Discuss the prospects for an upgrade of Lower Mystic Harbor shellfish growing waters to Seasonal Conditionally Open – Correspondences regarding opening criteria exchanged between Kristin DeRosia-Banick, DA/BA and Donald Murphy, SSC were discussed.
 - d) Commercial Shellfishing Reports – D. Murphy reported issuing a Commercial Shellfish Harvest Permit to David Motherway. Steve Plant reported very clear water on his grounds while moving stock and conducting maintenance. Garrett Timmons reported harvesting and moving stock until last week when he pulled his boat for the season.
 - e) Discuss Commission’s Response to CT Sea Grant’s Aquaculture Research Needs Survey – Mr.

Murphy presented a completed survey form for SSC review. SSC agreed with his responses and recommended forwarding to CT Sea Grant.

- f) Discuss ongoing research in Stonington waters
 - i) PATH to Reduce Pathogens in CT Agricultural Runoff (UConn) – D. Murphy attended a recent meeting and updated SSC
 - ii) Anguilla Brook Bacteria Track-down and Watershed-Based Plan (Eastern Connecticut Conservation District) – A plan overview was discussed. An 8-week sampling project is planned for this summer.
 - g) Review of shellfish permit sales for the 2018 season – Mr. Murphy reported a slight increase in permit sales in 2018 compared to 2017.
 - h) Review of finances; collections, bills, and remuneration – Recreational permit sales from Don's Dock and Greenhaven Marina were presented and the Shellfish Warden's time sheets were reviewed. A **motion** to pay \$924.10 to Don's Dock for boat winterizing and haul-out (Banister/Swenarton) was approved unanimously. Don Raffo provided a budget report and SSC essentially broke even in 2018, which is not sustainable in the long term due to periodic boat expenditures. Also noted was there were no large purchases of seed clams for recreational beds in 2018. Remuneration spreadsheets were reviewed and licensees are generally up to date.
 - i) Discuss CT Sea Grant's request for input to a plan for shellfish restoration in Connecticut – Don Murphy will pass along suggestions to CT Sea Grant including scallop restoration in Little Narragansett Bay and expansion of open recreational shellfishing areas. Alan Banister reviewed a slide deck he developed for his upcoming presentation of the SSC aquaculture licensing process.
- 7) Review the draft modifications to the Shellfish Commission's guidance for applications and application form to conduct aquaculture in Stonington's waters – A mark-up of the draft was reviewed by SSC. Mr. Murphy will meet with the Director of Planning to finalize a draft to submit to the town attorney for review.
- 8) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn (Banister/Raffo) was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Acting Secretary