



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2018
6:30 PM

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Ave., Stonington, CT. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Peter Moore, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman. Alternate Moore was seated as a voting member.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – none
- 3) Review and approval of the minutes of the special meeting on January 18, 2018 - A **motion** to approve the minutes with minor modifications (Banister/Moore) carried unanimously, with Ms. Getchis and Mr. Raffo abstaining.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) An email dated January 23, 2018 from Joshua Kelly, Town of Waterford, to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Waterford speaking update.
 - b) An email dated January 26, 2018 from Jim Carlton to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Note for eelgrass and scallop surveys.
- 5) Business
 - 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) – All three conditional areas were open from January 1 to January 12 but were closed on January 13 through the rest of the month due to rainfall event and weather conditions that did not allow collection of samples for reopening until January 29. Results from this sampling were not available at the time of this meeting. Communications with Alissa Dragan from the Bureau of Aquaculture stated that closed areas could be reopened after 14 days without sampling.
 - b) Update on water quality testing programs: PATH to Reduce Pathogens in CT Agricultural Runoff and the Mystic River Case Study of Virus Reduction in Waste Treatment – Results of the PATH study revealed *E. coli* levels in Anguilla Brook were above the state standard, but were the best of the ten brooks and tributaries sampled. Ruminant pathogens were detected but in low concentration. Results from the Mystic River Case Study shows the system at the Mystic River wastewater treatment facility is functioning well in terms of virus reduction.
 - c) Review of 2017 finances and permit sales – Review of permit sales from Don's Dock indicate that 2017 sales will be the lowest on record. Don Raffo reviewed the accounting spreadsheet for 2017 and noted that SSC ended the year with a net loss of \$891.
 - d) Set permit fees and regulations for the 2018 shellfishing season – Tessa Getchis suggested raising permit fees to help offset recent budget deficit and because fees have not been raised in a long time. A **motion** to raise all permit fees except resident seniors (Raffo/Moore) was approved unanimously.

- e) Enforcement – The end-of-season time report for the Shellfish Warden was reviewed.
 - f) Review draft modifications to the Shellfish Commission’s web site – There was continued review of draft modifications to supporting documents for the SSC aquaculture license application and the Shellfish Management Plan. Don Raffo will incorporate suggested changes for further review at the next meeting.
 - g) Discuss the letter dated November 27, 2017 from Tara Galbo presenting questions from Dana Lewis about how to improve his aquaculture application – SSC members completed review of the letter and finalized responses to the questions submitted. Chairman Murphy will provide a written response letter to Attorney Galbo.
 - h) Discuss letter dated December 28, 2017 from Dr. James Carlton on the potential use of the waters of lower Quiambug Cove for the establishment of a private commercial oyster industry – Don Murphy suggested reaching out to experts, such as Department of Aquaculture/Bureau of Agriculture, for guidance on responses to questions posed by Dr. Carlton.
 - i) Review of finances; collections, bills, remuneration – A **motion** to approve reimbursement of \$74.54 to Shellfish Warden Rob Russell for material purchased to cover the shellfish patrol boat for the winter (Banister/Raffo) was approved unanimously. Aquaculture remuneration spreadsheets were reviewed and all licensees are in good standing
 - j) Commercial shellfishing – No reports.
- 6) New Business – None.
- 7) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn was made (Banister/Raffo) and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Acting Secretary