



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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 4, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at the Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm St., Stonington, CT. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:04PM. First Selectman Rob Simmons was in attendance as part of his ongoing effort to attend town board meetings. He thanked SSC members for their service
- 2) Review and approval of the minutes of the special meetings of December 16, 2015 – A motion to approve these minutes (Banister/Raffo) carried unanimously.
- 3) Correspondence
  - a) A letter dated January 14, 2016 from the Army Corps of Engineers to Garrett Timmons, Harmony Sea Farms, LLC RE: approval of application to install aquaculture gear in Wequetequock Cove and Wamphassuc Point.
  - b) An email dated February 3, 2016 from Kristin DeRosia-Banick, DA/BA, to Connecticut Shellfish ListServ members RE: meeting follow-up regarding shellfish program requirements.
- 4) Business
  - a) **Conditional Shellfishing Areas - Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island** – Conditional areas were open in December until a December 23-24 rainfall event and beds were re-opened January 1, closed January 10, and re-opened January 20 for the rest of the month. Water and meat sampling results were generally good, including samples take during adverse conditions.  
A motion to alter the agenda and discuss item 4c, 4d, and 4f next (Swenarton/Banister) was approved unanimously.
  - c) **Review of 2015 finances** – Don Raffo presented a spreadsheet of 2015 and historical financial summaries and noted a shortfall of \$2,237 for 2015. Previous years had a mixture of gains and losses and he suggested setting a guideline of \$1,000/year gain. He also noted SSC had ample cash available at present.
  - d) **Set permit fees and regulations for the 2016 shellfishing season** – A motion to maintain current permit fees for 2016 (Raffo/Banister) was approved unanimously.
  - f) **Equipment – define the specification for a new shellfish boat** – The SSC boat is out of the water at Don's Dock and the trailer is in poor condition. Alan Banister presented the results of his research into replacement boat options. There was discussion about specifications. Don Raffo and Alan Banister will work with Warden Rob Russell to develop a list of generic specifications to be provided to potential vendors to attain quotes. SSC must follow town protocols so Chairman Murphy will contact J. Sullivan at town hall about the RFQ process.
  - b) **Changes to water sampling process** – Chairman Murphy gave an overview of recent

communications with DA/BA regarding their plan to streamline their internal procedures and still meet minimal sample requirements to maintain current growing area classifications. They plan on reassessing sampling locations to minimize sampling burden for commissions. They have requested meeting with commission members responsible for sample collection. Mr. Murphy will arrange to meet with DA/BA staff.

- g) **Review of finances; collections, bills, and remuneration** - A **motion** to allocate \$914.17 for removal and winterization of the SSC boat (Swenarton/Banister) was approved unanimously. A **motion** to allocate \$481.60 to reimburse D. Murphy for expenses he incurred (Swenarton/Banister) was approved unanimously. The remuneration spreadsheet was review; D. Murphy noted that acreages of lease areas had changed based on State updates.
  - h) **Modification of Will MacKay's application to conduct aquaculture in Stonington waters** – Mr. MacKay reviewed his updated application. SSC found the plan acceptable and recommended that he send his pre-application to DA/BA.
  - i) **Review of pending aquaculture applications** – Garrett Timmons of Harmony Sea Farms has received authorization from the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct aquaculture operations in Stonington waters according to plans he submitted. Dan Meiser has submitted his pre-application to DA/BA.
  - j) **Commercial Shellfishing: reports** – No reports.
- 5) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn was made (Raffo/Swenarton) and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Acting Secretary