



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 1, 2018
6:30 PM

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SCC) was held on this date at the Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Ave., Stonington, CT. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton, Mr. Peter Moore, and Mr. Don Murphy- Chairman. Ms. Tessa Getchis was absent from the meeting. Mr. Swenarton arrived late for the meeting at 7:00 pm, so Mr. Moore acted as secretary for the evening.

- 1) Call to order – Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. He welcomed approximately a dozen students from Stonington High School who were attending the meeting as part of their study of Civics
- 2) Comments from the public- none.
- 3) Review and approval of the minutes of the special joint meeting of the Economic Development Commission and the SSC of January 29, 2018 and minutes of the regular meeting of SSC of February 1, 2018 - A motion to approve both the minutes with no modifications (Banister/Raffo) was carried unanimously.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) A reply was provided and sent on February 7, 2018 by Don Murphy to Tara Justine Galbo regarding her letter of November 27, 2017 (re: Dana Lewis application.)
 - b) A memo dated February 5, 2018 from Don Murphy to the Stonington Selectmen asking for them to approve moving Peter Moore from an alternate to a regular member. A notice will be placed advertising for an alternate member of the SSC.
 - c) A letter dated February 26, 2018 from Don Murphy to Timothy Giulini, Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc., renewing his license (AQP-06-2007-2017 aka “South Ram 1) for ten years.
 - d) A letter dated February 26, 2018 from Don Murphy to Jim Markow, Aeros Cultured Oysters, renewing his license (AQP-05-2007-2017 aka North Mason 1 and YMCA Beach) for ten years.
 - e) A letter of February 27, 2018 from Docko, Inc. regarding a copy of a CT DEEP Form 101D regarding a dock for Neil Wainland, 159-161 River Road, Pawcatuck, CT. This letter will be discussed at the next meeting of the SSC in April.
 - f) A letter of February 27, 2018 from Docko, Inc. regarding a copy of a CT DEEP Form 101D regarding a dock for Peter Gleysteen Andrews Island, Mystic, CT. This letter will be discussed at the next meeting of the SSC in April.

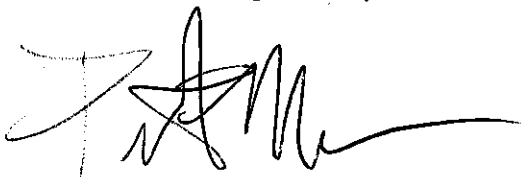
- g) A memo dated February 13, 2018 from Dr. Sylvain DeGuise of Sea Grant that outlines the elimination of the Sea Grant Program under President Trump's budget for fiscal 2019.

5) Business

- a) Discussion of 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). The conditional shellfishing areas were closed 14 of February's 28 days, with two significant rain events. Two sets of re-opening samples were taken with good results. No samples were taken during open conditions. This is the second month in a row that the Commission has been unable to collect the required monthly open-conditions samples. There are several reasons for this situation including the frequency and timing of rainfall events, ice coverage, and the inability of the lab to accept samples for analysis on some occasions. The Bureau of Aquaculture has hired an additional lab technician to increase their capacity, which will be helpful in making up these samples later in the year.
- b) Discuss letter of support for the continued funding of NOAA's Sea Grant Program- Chairman Murphy reported that the federal budget for FY 2019 eliminates NOAA's Sea Grant program. He said it might be helpful for the Commission to write a letter to Connecticut's Congressional delegation supporting the Sea Grant program. Chairman Murphy noted that, as Chairman of the SSC, he is a member of Connecticut Sea Grant's Senior Advisory Board. At this point Chairman Murphy recused himself from the discussion. The SSC discussed the importance of Sea Grant to local aquaculture and community at large and agreed to write a letter supporting the Sea Grant Program.
- c) Enforcement- nothing to report.
- d) Review draft modifications to the Shellfish Commission's forms on the web site- A lengthy discussion was held regarding updates and revisions to the forms associated with the aquaculture application (Stipulations, Overview, Flow Chart, Application.) The goal is to reduce redundancies and stream line the documents for ease of use. Many ideas were recommended and new draft documents will be produced for further review. The SSC established that the documents will be reviewed by the Town Planning Department and Legal Staff before being distributed to the public. The documents will then be the subject of a public hearing before final SSC approval.
- e) Review of Finances; collections; bills and remuneration. The SSC collected \$341.00 in permit fees from Don's Dock and Greenhaven Marina, thus completing its collections for the 2017 shellfishing year. The SSC paid Don's Dock \$400.01 for docking the patrol boat for the 2018 season. This amount is far less than the market rate to dock an 18-foot boat.
- 6) New Business – The Commission discussed moving the next meeting of April 5 to April 12.
- 7) Adjournment- A motion to adjourn (Raffo/Banister) was unanimously approved at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Moore, Acting Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Moore', written over a horizontal line.