



Town of Stonington Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2019

6:30 PM

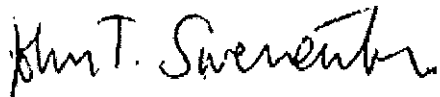
A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Ave., Mystic, CT. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Donald Raffo, Mr. Peter Moore, Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary, Mr. Donald Murphy; Chairman.

- 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 February 7, 2019 - A motion to approve the February 7, 2019 minutes as amended (Raffo/Moore) carried unanimously. A motion to take up Agenda Item 5b before Agenda Item 5a (Raffo/Moore) carried unanimously.
- 4) Correspondence –
 - a) A letter dated February 6, 2019 from Cindy Bayreuther, Docko, Inc., to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: DEEP consultation form, Maarten de Jong dock application on west side of Wamphassuc Point.
 - b) An email dated February 14, 2019 from Ted Burdacki to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: commercial clamming.
 - c) An email dated February 16, 2019 from Donald Murphy, SSC to Ted Burdacki Re: commercial clamming.
 - d) A letter dated February 27, 2019 from Donald Murphy, SSC to Dr. Dianne I. Greenfield, City University of New York Advanced Science Research Center Re: support for proposal “Integrating sandwich hybridization assay with CT and NY water quality and shellfish monitoring programs to enhance HAB management in Long Island embayments”.
- 5) Business –
 - b) Discuss an application by Mr. de Jong to construct a 78 ft. pile supported dock with a grate deck and a pile supported boat lift on the west side of Wamphassuc Point – SSC had the following comment: all measure shall be taken to protect eelgrass in the project area. Mr. Murphy will complete the consultation form and submit it to CTDEEP.
 - a) Discuss the water quality testing and status of Stonington's conditional recreational shellfishing areas - Outer Quijambaug Cove and East Mason's Island (Area A and Area B) – Conditional areas were opened February 1-23 until a 1.07” rain event forced closure for the remainder of the month. Results from water sampling on February 4 and 28 were all excellent.
 - c) Discuss progress toward upgrading the Lower Mystic Harbor shellfish growing waters to Seasonal Conditionally Open – Negotiations of a draft Memorandum of Understanding is ongoing between the Mystic Water Pollution Control Facility operators (SUEZ) and the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture (DA/BA). Weekly sampling, typically on Tuesdays, is ongoing and results have been good. Mr. Murphy reported that the Mystic WPCF has a rain gauge that may be useful in determining shellfish closures.
 - d) Commercial shellfishing reports – Steve Plant reported that he is managing his inventory. He also reported that a recent norovirus outbreak that forced a closure was attributed to a restaurant worker and not to shellfish served to customers. Will MacKay reported continued discussions

with New England Sailing and Science regarding an oyster grow-out project at their dock in Stonington Harbor. SCC is waiting for a response from Dave Carey, DABA, before commenting. He also reported on a Clean Up Sounds and Harbor (CUSH) / Nature Conservancy nitrogen mitigation project. He is planning on putting his boat in the water in April.

- e) Discuss Amtrak's 2019 Vegetation Management Plan – Amtrak submitted the plan to the Board of Selectman and First Selectman Rob Simmons responded with concerns for impacts to coastal resources such as wetland and shellfish given their Right-of-Way crosses numerous coves, rivers and embayments in Town. Mr. Murphy will contact Dave Carey, DA/BA, to determine if they are engaged.
 - f) Discuss plans for launching the Shellfish Commission's boat – Launch date is set for April 15. A **motion** to allocate up to \$200 to purchase a new propeller (Moore/Raffo) was approved unanimously.
 - g) Discuss the modification of the wild harvest areas in Stonington waters – Mr. Murphy proposed and SSC agreed to a minor modification to the map that would more clearly represent the boundary line between Areas C1 and C2.
 - h) Review of finances; collections, bills, and remuneration – Remuneration payment of \$102 was received for Will MacKay. Mr. Raffo provided an update on the 2019 budget.
 - i) Review the draft modifications to the Shellfish Commission's guidance for applications and application form to conduct aquaculture in Stonington's waters – The latest draft that included minor modification from Mr. Murphy and Mr. Banister was reviewed. This draft has been forwarded to the Town Attorney for final review.
- 6) New Business – None.
- 7) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn (Raffo/Moore) was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton

Secretary