



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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2017

7:00 PM

A special 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. Shellfish Warden Rob Russell was also in attendance.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
- 2) Review and approval of the minutes of the special meeting of March 9, 2017 – A **motion** to approve the March 9, 2017 minutes as presented (Banister/Raffo) carried unanimously.
- 3) Correspondence
 - a) An email dated March 20, 2017 from Kristin DeRosia-Banick, CT DA/BA to Don Murphy RE: Reclassification of waters in the Lower Mystic River.
- 4) Business
 - a) **Conditional Shellfishing Areas - Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island** – Conditional areas were opened for most of March except for a 1 week closure following a March 14 rain event. Re-opening samples collected on March 20 all had excellent results.
 - b) **Discuss the meeting of the Eastern Connecticut Shellfish Commissions** – Mr. Murphy provided a summary of the meeting held on April 4. SSC will continue to participate in courier service.
 - c) **Re-classification of the waters north of Mason's Island** – Based on the 2015 dye study, the area north of Mason's Island previously classified as restricted relay has been downgraded to prohibited.
 - i) Discuss impact of the reclassification on existing license agreements with Aeros Cultured Oyster Company, Inc. – This is the last year of Mr. Markow's license for this area. Options discussed were eliminating remuneration or allowing the lease to be terminated. SSC will wait to hear from Mr. Markow.
 - d) **Equipment**
 - i) **Preparing the shellfish boat for the 2017 season** – The shellfish patrol boat has been uncovered and waxed. Don's Dock will perform spring tune-up and inspect and adjust motor linkages.
 - ii) **Allocate funds for dockage fees for the shellfish boat** – A **motion** to allocate \$400.01 to cover dockage for 2017 at Don's Dock (Banister/Raffo) carried unanimously.
 - e) **Planning for the sale of the old shellfish boat.** A public notice for sale of surplus property was issued and bids on the boat will be accepted until 2pm April 28.
 - f) **Discuss the transfer of ownership of Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc. and the process of transferring the license agreement to the new owner** - The current lease agreement was reviewed and SSC was in agreement that no transfer of the license agreement was necessary since the license was issued to Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc which still exist, now under new ownership.
 - g) **Application by William MacKay to conduct aquaculture in Stonington waters in Little Narragansett Bay and south of the inner breakwater**– Will MacKay reported that all

necessary approvals are in order. A **motion** to formally accept the application by Little Narragansett Bay Oyster Company and assign license agreement number AQP-10-2017-2027 (Swenarton/Raffo) was approved unanimously. The public hearing was scheduled for May 4, 2017, 6:30 pm.

- h) **Application by Lyddy's Island Shellfish LLC) to conduct aquaculture in Stonington waters between Lyddy's Island and Dodges Island** – SSC sees no impediments to going forward with the pre-application process.
 - i) **Status of applications to conduct aquaculture in Stonington waters** – No reports.
 - j) **Review of finances; collections, bills, and remuneration** – Remuneration records and a Town financial report for SSC were reviewed.
 - k) **Commercial Shellfishing** – Steve Plant reported on the recent visit by Rep. Joe Courtney to the Noank Aquaculture Cooperative. Will MacKay reported that he is growing algae and spawning oyster at the Noank Coop.
- 5) **Adjournment** – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn was made (Raffo/Banister) and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Acting Secretary