



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2017

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, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
- 2) Review and approval of the minutes of the special meeting of May 4, 2017 – A **motion** to approve the minutes as presented (Banister/Raffo) carried unanimously.
- 3) Correspondence -- none.
- 4) Business
 - a) **Conditional Shellfishing Areas - Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island** – Conditional areas were closed for all but three days in May (May 23-25). Water sampling was conducted on three dates; results from May 10 and May 16 were good. Results from May 31 sampling were not yet available.
 - b) **Discuss the meeting process for transporting water samples to DABA** – Joy from the Noank Aquaculture Cooperative has offered to maintain records of sample delivery trips so that each town involved in combined runs can share the cost (\$100/trip).
 - c) **Discuss the results of the meeting of the Eastern CT Shellfish Commissions with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture** - The following issues relevant to SSC were discussed with David Carey, Kristin DeRosa-Banick, and Alissa Dragan of DABA at the May 22 meeting:
 - Increasing the closure trigger from Outer Quiambaug Cove from 1" to 2";
 - The Area B sampling station is not classified correctly;
 - David Carey is concerned about precision of sampling station locations (e.g., winter samples are sometimes taken at nearby docks rather than by boat);
 - Request to provide latitude/longitude coordinates for Timmons and MacKay aquaculture license grounds;
 - The Memorandum of Understanding for Stonington needs revisions to include:
 - (a) Eliminating police notification
 - (b) Rain gauge upgrade (move away for traditional plastic tubes); DABA wants online data
 - (c) Seasonally closed conditional areas can now re-open when <10 moored boats are present.
 - d) **Re-classification of the waters north of Mason's Island** – Don Murphy summarized discussion on this topic with DABA at the May 22 meeting where he proposed a compromise to move the western boundary farther west to encompass more of the Markow plot. SSC is awaiting a decision from DABA.
 - e) **Sale of old shellfish boat** – Following completion of the bidding process, the old shellfish patrol boat was sold for \$3,251.
 - f) **Review of the status of applications to conduct aquaculture in Stonington waters** – Ed Emery of Lyddy's Island Shellfish presented conceptual plans he is preparing for submittal to Army Corps of Engineers and DABA.

- g) **Review of finances; collections, bills, and remuneration** – An invoice from the Westerly Sun for a public hearing notification will be forwarded to Will MacKay for payment.
- 5) **Commercial Shellfishing** – Fred Emery reported harvesting hard clams in the former Mohegan Sun plot and expressed interest in wild harvest in Little Narragansett Bay and depuration. Steve Plant reported growth on larger oysters. Kevin Blados reported that oysters on his Mason's Island plot overwintered well. Garrett Timmons had similar overwintering success on his plot.
- 6) **New Business** – Dana Lewis reviewed his conceptual plans for conducting oyster aquaculture near Enders Island. He is considering starting with bottom culture first and setting cages sometime in the future.
- 7) **Adjournment** – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn was made (Banister/Raffo) and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Swenarton". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

John Swenarton, Acting Secretary