



Town of Stonington
Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

September 7, 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, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. A **motion** to move to agenda items 5a) and 5b) (Swenarton/Banister) was approved unanimously.
- 5) Business
 - a) Application by Mr. Jeffrey Walker to modify an existing dock on west side of Masons Islands – SSC had no comments on this application.
 - b) Application by the Mystic Harbor Management Commission to install new channel marker piles in the upper part of the Mystic River - SSC had no comments on this application.
- 2) Comments from the public – The following individuals spoke in opposition to the proposed application by Dana Lewis to conduct aquaculture in Quiambaug Cove: Roseanne Smyle, Cathy and Ben Berte, Jim and Debbie Carlton, Jim and Cindy Coelho, James O'Donnell, David Motherway, Jeff and Judy Smith. William Martin thanked the commission for their management of clams in Stonington waters.
- 3) Review and approval of the minutes of the special meeting of August 9, 2017 – A **motion** to approve the minutes as presented (Banister/Raffo) carried unanimously.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) A letter dated August 18, 2017 from Cheryl China, DOCKO, Inc. to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Application by Mr. Jeffrey Walker to modify an existing dock on west side of Masons Islands
 - b) A letter dated August 30, 2017 from Cheryl China, DOCKO, Inc. to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Application by the Mystic Harbor Management Commission to install new channel marker piles in the upper part of the Mystic River
- 5) Business
 - c) **Conditional Shellfishing Areas - Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island** – Conditional areas were open for the entire month of August. Water sampling was conducted on two dates; results from August 8 and August 23 were very good.
 - d) **Removal of the oyster seeds placed in Quiambaug Cove without a permit** – Most of the oysters in question were removed and destroyed per instruction from David Carey (DA/BA).
 - e) **Set dates, fees, and regulations for the 2017-2018 scallop season** – There have been reports of a few scallops. A **motion** to begin the season at sunrise October 8, end the season at sunset March 31, and keep fees the same as last year (Raffo/Banister) was approved unanimously.
 - f) **Reclassification of the shellfish growing waters north of Mason's Island** – The area north of Masons Island has been reclassified from restricted relay to prohibited as of October 1 and remuneration implications for Jim Markow were discussed. DA/BA plans to make a presentation to commercial shellfishers affected.

- g) **Request to conduct shellfish demonstration for the Mystic Middle School Outdoors Club** – The demonstration is planned for October 5 at 3:30pm in Area A. John Swenarton will coordinate SSC support with Tessa Getchis.
 - h) **Application by Dana Lewis to conduct aquaculture in Quiambaug Cove and on the west side of Enders Island** – Mr. Lewis stated he wants to move forward with his application to use approximately 0.75 acres in Quiambaug. He said the project would have economic and environmental benefits for the Town and has notified neighbors. Mr. Murphy emphasized a similar notification be done for Masons Island neighbors near his proposed Enders Island site, including the Mystic River Harbor Management Commission. Mr. Lewis agreed to do this.
 - i) **Enforcement** – Routine patrols are ongoing.
 - j) **Review of the status of applications to conduct aquaculture in Stonington waters** – A draft Aquaculture License Agreement for Little Narragansett Bay Oyster Company was provided to Will MacKay for his review.
 - k) **Review of finances; collections, bills, and remuneration** – The remuneration spreadsheet was review. There was discussion to shift periodic seeding of recreational beds from all clams to a mixture with oyster. Oyster seeding is planned for October.
 - l) **Commercial Shellfishing** – Steve Plant reported that his new crop is doing well. Will MacKay is doing some sampling in Little Narragansett Bay. Garrett Timmons is working with the Harbor Management Commission for a mooring in Wequetequock Cove.
- 6) New Business – none
- 7) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn was made (Banister/Raffo) and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Acting Secretary