



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2016
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.
- 2) Review and approval of the minutes of the regular meetings of July 7, 2016 and August 4, 2016 – A **motion** to approve the July 7, 2016 minutes (Raffo/Banister) carried unanimously. Approval of the August 4, 2016 minutes was tabled until a quorum of attending members is present.
- 3) Correspondence
 - a) An email dated August 29, 2016 from Brendan Coffey, Thimble Island Oyster Co. to Don Murphy RE: Pre-application form to conduct seaweed aquaculture in State of Connecticut waters near Ram Island.
 - b) An email dated September 6, 2016 from David Carey, DA/BA, to Don Murphy RE: clarification of buffer requirements between grounds with different classifications.
- 4) Business
 - a) **Conditional Shellfishing Areas - Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island** – Conditional areas were open for the entire month of August and analytical results from sampling on August 1 and 14 were very good, including samples taken during adverse conditions.
 - b) **Update on restocking of conditional areas** – Jim Markow harvested 17 bags of clams from an open bed in Groton that were then distributed to Area A. Value of the clams was credited to his remuneration account. He is now moving clams from his lease grounds in the Thames River to an area off Ram Island for depuration that may be available for future restocking efforts.
 - c) **Set dates, fees, and regulations for the 2016-2017 scallop season** – A **motion** to open the season from sunrise October 8, 2016 to sunset March 31, 2017 and maintain permit fees and regulations from the previous season (Swenarton/Raffo) was approved unanimously.
 - d) **Equipment – Sale of old shellfish boat** – Alan Banister has been working with Town staff to develop a procedure and minimum bid for sale of the now retired SSC patrol boat. The boat will be towed to Town property near the Highway Dept. garage to avoid further yard storage fees until the sale is finalized.
 - e) **Enforcement** – Patrols are ongoing with no significant issues.
 - f) **Application by CT Cultured Oyster/Aeros Cultured Oysters Company to conduct aquaculture in Stonington waters** – Steve Plant summarized the application to plant oysters on the bottom of a 3.42 acre area between Dodge and Andrew's Islands for depuration, commencing in October and ending at the end of November. SSC discussed posting signage to establish a commercial closure to deter recreational harvesting in the area. A **motion** to hold a public hearing on the application (Swenarton/Banister) was approved unanimously.
 - g) **Status of applications to conduct aquaculture in Stonington waters** – The application for Will MacKay is pending. He has completed all Army Corps of Engineers and National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration forms.
 - h) **Review of finances; collections, bills, and remuneration** – Don Murphy summarized permit

sales and the updated remuneration spreadsheets based on more accurate GIS boundary data. He asked SSC members to review spreadsheets and get back to him with comments. Recent invoices from Don's Dock for SSC patrol boat expenses were also reviewed.

- i) **Commercial Shellfishing: reports** – Garrett Timmons reported that he now has oysters on the bottom of his licensed area. Steve Plant will start planting next week. Alan Banister and John Swenarton gave an overview of a CUSH meeting recently held to bring stakeholders together to discuss macro-algae blooms in Little Narragansett Bay.
- 5) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn was made (Raffo/Banister) and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Swenarton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Swenarton, Acting Secretary