



**Town of Stonington
Shellfish Commission**

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

SPECIAL MINUTES MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

6:30 PM

A Special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at the Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Ave., Mystic, CT. Voting members present were Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. John Swenarton, Ms. Tessa Getchis (alternate) Mr. Steve Brown; Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

1) **Call to order:** Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

2) **Comments from the public:**

- a) The following town residents objected to the application by Stonington Aquafarms LLC. to conduct aquaculture in Quiambaug Cove: James and Cynthia Coelho, James Carlton, Eugene Winchester, Joe Rendeiro, Steven Grob, Rosanne Simborski:Smyle, Debby Carlton, Tom Van Winkle, Jeff Walker, Lynn Conway, Martine Nolletti, Harry Martin, Robert W. Hersh. Mr. Carey an attorney, from Suisman and Shapiro, also spoke on the record.
- b) The following town residents endorsed the application by Stonington Aquafarms LLC. to conduct aquaculture in Quiambaug Cove: Ben Philbrick, Ann Bergendahl

3) **Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting on September 7, 2017:** tabled

4) **Correspondence:**

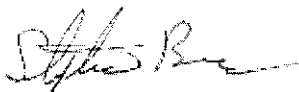
- a) An email dated October 4, 2017 from Ms. Kristin DeRosia-Banick, DABA, to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: expanding the prohibited area in Mystic Harbor.
- b) An email dated October 12, 2017, from Ms. Tracy M. Collins, Waller, Smith and Palmer, Attorneys at Law, to Mr. Donald Murphy, SSC Re: FOI request for applications for conducting aquaculture, meeting agendas and minutes, etc..., for the last two years.
- c) An email dated October 18, 2017 from Ms. Rachel M. Gaudio, Waller, Smith and Palmer, Attorneys at Law, to Mr. Donald Murphy, SSC Re: 22 signed letters of opposition to the application by Dana Lewis, Stonington Aquafarms LLC. to conduct aquaculture in Quiambaug Cove
- d) A letter dated October 18, 2017, form Mr. Timothy Giuliani, Stonington Farms Shellfish Inc., to Mr. Donald Murphy, SSC Re: extension request for current license agreement.
- e) An email dated October 19, 2017, from Ms. Dolores J. Mastroni, Day Smith Steele, LLC, to Mr. Donald Murphy, SSC Re: application by Stonington Aquafarms LLC. to conduct aquaculture in Quiambaug Cove.
- f) An email dated November 7, 2017, from Ms. Linda M. Dempsey, Suisman and Shapiro, Attorneys at Law, to Mr. Donald Murphy, SSC Re: FOI request for applications for conducting aquaculture, meeting agendas and minutes, etc..., for the last two years.

5) **Business:**

- a) Conditional Shellfishing Areas- Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island- Water samples taken on October 11, and October 17th had excellent results. Due to over five inches of rain, in a seven day period, the beds were closed, but will reopen on November 14.

- b) **Discuss ongoing water quality testing programs in Stonington (PATH and MSC Study of the Mystic Water Pollution Control Facility);** PATH is analyzing bacteria counts in Anguilla Brook, and MSC is studying viruses in the water.
 - c) **Update on the progress of the 2017-2018 scallop season:** many scallops found this year
 - d) **Reclassification of the shellfish growing waters north of Mason's Island; impact on remuneration:** reminder about how reclassification will impact remuneration
 - e) **Shellfish demonstration for the Mystic Middle School Outdoors Club; lessons learned:** about a dozen students learned how to harvest shellfish with the help of members of the commission as well as a Denison Pequotsepos Naturalist. The event was a success and the SSC looks forward to helping out with more educational experiences for the younger generations.
 - f) **Application by Dana Lewis, Stonington Aquafarms LLC. to conduct aquaculture in Quiambaug Cove:**
 - i) The applicant presented a general overview of his application to the public.
 - ii) After each commission member spoke about the application, Mr. Banister made a motion to not accept the application in its current form, as it was incomplete; the motion was seconded by Mr. Raffo and approved unanimously by the commission.
 - iii) The SSC recommended that the depuration site, Enders Island, be included in the application, not just because it would follow precedent, but because there was the possibility that one site might be approved but not the other site. In addition, there needs to be a third party survey of the eel grass beds, as well as the consideration that the area may be a viable spot for scallops.
 - g) **Set the 2018 meeting schedule:** tabled
 - h) **Enforcement:** the warden will be patrolling throughout November
 - i) **Equipment-plans for removing the shellfish boat from the water:** The boat will be removed from the water in December and the lower unit fluid will be checked for signs of metal.
 - j) **Review the status of applications to conduct aquaculture in Stonington waters-** no new news
 - k) **Review of finances; collections, bills and remuneration:**
 - i) A motion was made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Banister to allocate \$60 to AGJO for the printing of scallop permits, the motion was approved unanimously.
 - ii) A motion was made by Mr. Swenarton and seconded by Mr. Banister to allocate \$58 to Joy Toronto for delivering water samples for the SSC, the motion was approved unanimously.
 - iii). Most remuneration would be in the form of shellfish product.
 - l) **Commercial shellfishing reports:** no news to report
- 6) **Adjournment-** A motion was made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Banister and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Brown, Secretary