



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 6, 2018
6:30 PM

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

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – None.
- 3) Review and approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on November 1, 2018 - A **motion** to approve the November 1, 2018 minutes with one minor typographical error corrected (Banister/Getchis) carried unanimously.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) An email dated November 3, 2018 from Donald Murphy, SSC to Rachel Gaudio Re: November 1 2018 meeting minutes.
 - b) An email dated November 19, 2018 from Cori Rose, US Army Corps of Engineers, to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: LionMind Ventures, LLC Kelp Farm.
 - c) An email dated November 20, 2018 from Cori Rose, US Army Corps of Engineers, to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Fishers Island Oyster, Wilcox Nursery Pier.
 - d) A letter dated November 28, 2018 from Cindy Bayreuther, Docko, Inc., to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: DEEP consultation form, Barbara A. Foley, 9 East Neck Road.
 - e) A letter dated November 29, 2018 from Christina Lopes, Docko, Inc., to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: DEEP consultation form, McDevitt property, 7 East Neck Road.
 - f) A letter dated November 29, 2018 from Christina Lopes, Docko, Inc., to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: DEEP consultation form, Andolino property, 100 Latimer Point.'
- 5) Business
 - a) Discuss the water quality testing and status of Stonington's conditional recreational shellfishing areas – Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island (Area A and Area B) – Conditional Areas A and Outer Quiambaug were open in November 21-24 but otherwise all conditional areas were closed during November due to frequent rain events. Water testing results from November 18 samples showed higher than acceptable bacteria levels at Stations 9 (Area B) and 13 (Outer Quiambaug). Another sampling run was done yesterday (12/5).
 - b) Application by Barbara Foley to modify an existing dock, including the construction of a pile-supported boat lift, on the west shore of Stonington Harbor – Following review of plans from Docko, Inc., SSC had no comment. Mr. Murphy will forward the consultation form to CT DEEP.
 - c) Application by Wade McDevitt to modify an existing dock, including the construction of a pile-supported boat lift, on the west shore of Stonington Harbor – Following review of plans from Docko, Inc., SSC had no comment. Mr. Murphy will forward the consultation form to CT DEEP
 - d) Application by Barbara Foley to modify an existing dock, including the construction of a pile-supported boat lift, on the west shore of Stonington Harbor – Following a presentation by Keith

Neilson of Docko, Inc., SSC had the following comments: no activities at the project site will interfere with recreational shellfishing and the floating dock shall be lifted out of the water at the end of the season. Mr. Murphy will forward the consultation form to CT DEEP

- e) Discuss the prospects for an upgrade of the Lower Mystic River shellfish growing waters to Seasonally Conditionally Open – The Mystic Sewage Treatment Plant has performed well based on dye dilution studies and eight months of sampling. SSC expects a draft Memorandum of Understanding form DA/BA next month (January 2019).
 - f) Discuss plans for accepting remuneration for the use of Stonington shellfish grounds during 2018- Jim Markow has offered clams and it was agreed to place them in deeper water at the boundary of Areas A and B due to cold water temperatures. Other growers have offered oysters and a plan was made to distribute them and the clams next Thursday (12/13).
 - g) Commercial shellfishing reports – Will Mackay was present but had no report. Steve Plant reported ongoing harvesting of inventory. Dana Lewis gave an update on his Army Corps of Engineers application.
 - h) Shellfish boat plan: removal from water, winter storage, and dockage for 2019 – Following sampling and shellfish transplanting next week, the plan is to haul the boat out before Christmas. As in previous years, the boat will be stored at Don's Dock. SSC agreed to continue the same dockage agreement with Don's Dock for 2019.
 - i) Review of finances; collections, bills, remuneration – SSC expects to continue financial self-sufficiency in 2019 and requests the usual \$50 line item in the Town budget with the caveat that SSC may incur legal costs.
 - j) Discuss CT Sea Grant's request for input to a plan for shellfish restoration in Connecticut – Tessa Getchis reported that funding is available for developing a restoration plan for Connecticut and is seeking SSC input for potential areas in Stonington for future projects. SSC will provide recommendations at the next meeting in January.
 - k) Review the draft modifications to the Shellfish Commission's guidance for applications and application form to conduct aquaculture in Stonington's waters – SSC members Murphy and Banister added minor revisions to the flow chart and sent the draft document to Jason Vincent, Director of Planning, for review. Mr. Murphy will request that Mr. Vincent forward to the Town Attorney.
 - l) New Business – Mr. Banister requested input from SSC for a title for his presentation on SSC's development of the aquaculture application guidance document at the January 26, 2019 Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions.
- 7) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn (Banister/Getchis) was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Secretary