



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 1, 2018
6:30 PM

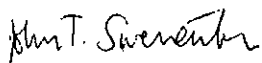
A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at Mystic Middle School, 204 Mistuxet Ave., Stonington, CT. Members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Donald Raffo, Mr. Peter Moore, Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary, and Mr. Donald Murphy; Chairman.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – None.
- A **motion** to move to agenda item 6 (Raffo/Banister) was approved unanimously.
- 6) New Business – Dan Meiser had questions for the SSC regarding the status of the aquaculture application update, requirements for environmental impact/eelgrass studies and incorporation of applicants, and who and where applicants can get assistance in preparing an application. SSC will reach out to the town attorney and the Department of Planning for guidance.
- 3) Review and approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on October 4, 2018 - A **motion** to approve the October 4, 2018 minutes with a minor typographical correction (Banister/Raffo) carried unanimously.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) A letter dated October 3, 2018 from Christina Lopes, Docko, Inc., to Donald Murphy. SSC Re: DEEP Permit Consultation Form, Matweeff Property, 26 North Shore Way.
 - b) An email dated October 23, 2018 from Dec Mastroni, Day Smith Steele, LLC to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Stonington Aquafarms, LLC 2017 eelgrass survey of Quiambaug Cove.
 - c) An email dated October 16, 2018 from Shannon Kelly, Dept. of Ag./Bureau of Aquaculture, to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: Pre-application for Pryor kelp farm proposal.
 - d) An email dated October 31, 2018 from Rachel M. Gaudio, Waller, Smith, and Palmer, P.C. to Donald Murphy, SSC Re: request for draft modifications of the SSC guidance for aquaculture applications.
- 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 closed for most of October due to frequent heavy rain. Water testing results from October 9, 14, 22 and 31 samples were generally good with the exception of Station 9 on October 9 and Station 10 on October 14.
 - b) Application by Mr. Matweeff to retain and reconstruct of fixed dock, boat lift, and floating dock of the west shore of Latimer Point. – Following a presentation by Keith Neilson, Docko, Inc., SSC had the following comments: no activities at the project site will interfere with recreational shellfishing and the floating dock is to be removed at the end of the boating season. Mr. Murphy will forward the Permit Consultation Form to CT DEEP.
 - c) Discuss the Pre-Application Screening Form submitted by Pryor Kelp Farm to install a kelp farm in Connecticut waters east of Eelgrass Grounds in Fishers Island Sound. – SSC had the following comments: Questions a), b), and c) regarding structures and water dependent uses should be referred to the Harbor Management Commission; Question d) regarding any special aquatic

resources or habitats of concern that could be impacted by the project – SSC is not aware of any but the project area is not within SSC jurisdiction. Mr. Murphy will complete the form and forward it to DA/BA.

- d) Discuss prospects for an upgrade of the Lower Mystic River Harbor shellfish growing waters to Seasonal Conditionally Open – The Mystic Water Pollution Control Facility experienced problems with treatment systems in July-August 2018 that were documented in a CTDEEP Inspection Report. Prior to that, the systems functioned well. Mr. Murphy met with First Selectman Simmons to explain the situation. Mr. Murphy recommended moving ahead with the process to upgrade the area and create a Memorandum of Understanding while the system problems are being resolved.
 - e) Commercial shellfishing reports –Garrett Timmons reported improved conditions in his plot (the green alga *Cladophora* is gone) and is dredging and snorkeling to work his ground. He has observed some scallopers in the area. Will MacKay reported no issues with his marker buoys and boaters. Steve Plant is in the process of transferring his oysters to cages.
 - f) Review of finances; collections, bills, remuneration – Don Raffo gave a budget status report and noted that SSC is generally on track to meet budget goals set for 2018.
 - g) Review the draft modifications to the Shellfish Commission’s guidance for applications and application form to conduct aquaculture in Stonington’s waters – Draft modifications to the SSC guidance for applications were reviewed. Final minor edits will be incorporated and the draft will be forwarded to the Director of Planning Jason Vincent for his review.
- 7) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn (Banister/Getchis) was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Secretary