

STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

04 April 2007

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at the Stonington Human Services Meeting Room at 166 South Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to approve the 7 March 2007 Regular Meeting minutes with one minor amendment (correct spelling of 'Cladophora' in Section 5a). Ms. Getchis made a second to the motion, which was approved unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 15 March 2007 from D.M. Lamoureux, Jr.; Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DA/BA) to M. Blefeld, MD; Stonington Health Dept. re: updated emergency contact list for Stonington from the Department of Agriculture/Bureau of Aquaculture (DA/BA).
2. A letter dated 20 March 2007 from K. Essington; The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to D. Murphy re; signed grant agreement for SSC scallop enhancement project.
3. A memorandum dated 22 March 2007 from J. Vincent; Stonington Dir. of Planning to T. Londregan; Stonington Town Attorney re: request for review of scallop enhancement project grant agreement documents.
4. A memorandum dated 27 March 2007 from J. Vincent to W.S. Brown; Stonington First Selectman re: scallop enhancement project request for agreement execution.
5. A letter dated 27 March 2007 from B.P. Thompson; CTDEP to D. Elliman re: confirmation of receipt of request to withdraw Permit Application No. 200600791-SB proposing to excavate a trench from Mason's Island to Dodge Island for utility lines.
6. A letter dated 28 March 2007 from J. Vincent to K. Essington re: scallop enhancement project grant agreement transmittal.
7. A memorandum dated 28 March 2007 from J. Vincent to M. Stevens; Stonington Director of Finance re: scallop enhancement project agreement transmittal and request for account assignment.

BUSINESS

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas* – Areas A, B, and Outer Quiambog Cove were open on 01 March, closed 02-24 March and open on 25-31 March. Samples collected on 12 and 28 March had good results. A memo from DA/BA stated conditional beds could be open on 15 March, but were not opened in anticipation of heavy rain, which did occur on 16-17 March. Area B will be closed as of 1 May as per the Memorandum of Understanding.
- 2) *Equipment* - The boat seat purchased for the warden's boat turned out to be the wrong size, but the manufacturer has agreed to exchange it for the correct size.
- 3) *Enforcement*- Patrols are ongoing.
- 4) *Update on the Scallop Enhancement Project in Little Narragansett Bay* –
 - a) Agreement documents have been signed by TNC and the Town of Stonington. Until funding is received from TNC, Stonington Shellfish Commission money will be used to cover the costs of permit fees (\$262.52) and legal advertisements (~\$150). Mr. Banister made a **motion** to allocate funds to cover these costs with the understanding that the SSC accounts will be reimbursed when grant money is received. The motion was seconded by Ms. Getchis and passed unanimously.
 - b) Ms. Getchis and Mr. Murphy prepared and submitted 2 permit applications for the project, a Joint Application for Aquaculture to CT DA/BA and US Army Corps of Engineers and an Application for Structures, Dredging & Fill (SDF) to CT DEP. A Natural Diversity Database Review Request Form was also prepared and submitted to CTDEP. The SDF application requires a 30-day public notice period. Once a source of scallops is identified, a Scientific Resource Assessment to be done to evaluate animals for potential diseases.
- 5) *Summary of Commercial Activities* – Steve Plant reported conducting bottom cleaning but little other activity due to continued cold water temperatures. Paul Watts reported that he plans to continue his commercial activity in Stonington waters in 2007 and will apply for a commercial permit.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) *Stonington Community Center Educational Program* – An educational program about Sandy Point will be held on 15 May at 7 PM at the Como. SSC has been requested to attend to answer questions; Mr. Raffo and Mr. Banister plan on attending with a small display.
- 2) *Coastal Zone Soil Survey of Little Narragansett Bay* – Mr. Banister summarized a report published in February 2007 by the US Dept. of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) detailing extensive studies of coastal and subaqueous soil types. Mr. Banister contacted NRCS staff who suggested giving SSC a presentation on the survey. Mr. Banister will get back to them and set this up later in the year.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Getchis made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Raffo. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectively submitted,

John Swenarton, Acting Secretary