

**STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

07 March 2007

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the Human Resource Building. Voting members present were Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Donald Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton, Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Secretary and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman.

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

A **motion** was made by Mr. Swenarton to accept the 07 February 2007 meeting minutes. Ms. Getchis made a second to the motion which was approved, Mr. Raffo abstaining.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Getchis to accept the 22 February 2007 workshop minutes. Mr. Swenarton made a second to the motion which was approved, Mr. Raffo abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 13 January 2007 from J.A. Young; Avalonia Land Conservancy to Mr. Murphy re: Sandy Point awareness day public event.
2. Permit No. 07-01 issued to Purity Processed Shellfish for commercial operations in town waters and specifically within Little Narragansett Bay.

BUSINESS

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
 - a) Area A, B and Outer Quiambog Cove were open 01-13 February, closed 14-23 February and open 24-28 February.
 - b) Mr. Murphy reported that on 02 March Stonington received 2 ½ inches of rainfall, while most of the state received 3 to 4 inches. DA/BA closed all waters in the state, including Stonington, erring towards safety.
- 2) *Equipment*
 - a) Mr. Murphy reported that the seat that was purchased for the boat is the incorrect size, and that he will bring it back to Wilcox Marine to see if it can be swapped for the correct seat.
- 3) *Enforcement*
 - a) Mr. Murphy reported that Warden Motherway is conducting patrols by both car and foot, noting that activity has been very meager.
- 4) *The Nature Conservancy Scallop Rehabilitation Project/Partnership Update*
 - a) Mr. Desbonnet reported that he contacted Chris Littlefield requesting details on the funding stream for the grant, and a letter of confirmation of the award. Littlefield responded that he needed to check a few specifics and would be back in contact, but has not as yet. Mr. Desbonnet noted that he requested an update earlier today, but did not yet receive any response.
 - b) Ms. Getchis reported that she is following up on the permitting process, and so far no agency has voiced any major concerns. DEP/ACE will have a final statement on or before

14 March. Pending their decision, the permitting will be clearer. Ms. Getchis feels fairly confident that the project will receive a general permit, which will significantly reduce the burden of the permitting process.

- c) Ms. Getchis reported that Grasso Tech is very interested in having students participate in the project as they can count the time as part of classroom/study requirements for graduation. She will pursue details once the timeframe and permitting process are clearer.
- d) Mr. Murphy reported that he has contacted the sailboarding group that often utilize waters off Barn Island, and reported that the group had no major concerns about the project or in their having to avoid the area during the project timeframe. Mr. Murphy noted that we would contact the one commercial green crabber that sets traps in the Little Narragansett Bay area.

5) *Commercial Activities*

- a) Eric Limouze reported that he has taken in a fair number of adult scallops during clam harvest operations in Little Narragansett Bay, but that he was not seeing any younger/smaller sized scallops. He also reported an abundance of *Cladophora* in the area, noting that most of the clams taken underneath thick mats of this alga were dead.
- b) Steve Plant reported that he has not been out to check his oysters lately due to the weather. Given the high winds, massive rains and frigid temperatures, he expects the worst but hopes to be pleasantly surprised. Either way he will report back once he has been out on his wintering grounds.

NEW BUSINESS

none

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Desbonnet made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Raffo. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary