

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

01 August 2007

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

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister to accept the 27 June 2007 minutes as amended to correct 1 typographic errors. Ms. Getchis made a second to the motion which was approved, Mr. Swenarton and Mr. Desbonnet abstaining.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister to accept the 06 July 2007 minutes as presented. Ms. Getchis made a second to the motion which was approved, Mr. Swenarton abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 08 July 2007 from Mr. Murphy to Jim Markow, Aeros Oyster Company with a cc: via email to DA/BA re: co-management expiration and how to proceed.
2. A letter dated 15 July 2007 from Mr. Murphy to Alan Bentz re: parking issues with recreational shellfish harvesters.
3. A letter dated 19 July 2007 CTDEP Marine Fisheries to Mr. Murphy re: copy of the "Impacts to eelgrass..." report.

BUSINESS

1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*

- a) Area A and Outer Quiambog Cove were open the entire month of July.
- b) Mr. Desbonnet made a **motion** to allocate \$213.00 for the printing of shellfish permits. Mr. Banister made a second to the motion which was unanimously approved.
- c) Mr. Murphy reported that permit sales have been good.

2) *Posting of Agendas and Minutes*

- a) Mr. Desbonnet gave a rundown of the recent need to post agendas and minutes to the town web pages, asking if the commission should duplicate or post in both areas. After discussion it was agreed to post draft minutes to the commission web site immediately, then post approved minutes to the town web site at a later date. Agendas will be posted as required.

3) *Request by DA/BA for Map of Town Owned and Leased Bottom*

- a) Mr. Murphy briefed the commission on a request by DA/BA to get a large scale copy of the "No New Activities" map on the web site. It was noted by several members that the map needed to be updated prior to providing a copy to DA/BA. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Desbonnet agreed to meet and work on updates to the map. Mr. Murphy agreed to contact the town planner to see if it would be possible for his office to create/update the map in the town GIS system. How to proceed will depend on the outcome of that meeting.

4) *Equipment*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported bills coming from Don's Dock may appear larger than normal, but that is because PMW bills for their work through Don's Dock. This does not reflect any change in procedure, just an FYI to the commission.
- b) Mr. Swenarton made a **motion** to allocate an additional \$445.34 for spring commissioning of the boat to cover costs exceeded by an earlier vote to approve \$500.00 for this activity. Mr. Banister provided a second to the motion which was unanimously approved.

5) *Enforcement*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that Warden Motherway continues his patrols, and has reported that shellfishing harvest activity does not seem as brisk as in previous years.
- b) Mr. Murphy brought up the issue of purchasing a tow package for the boat. Mr. Banister suggested the \$89 package from Boat U.S. which allows up to \$500 towing fees, per incident for one year. After discussion it was agreed to purchase that package, and Mr. Banister agreed to make the arrangements.
- c) Mr. Desbonnet made a **motion** to allocate up to \$100 for the purchase of a towing package from Boats U.S. Ms. Getchis provided a second to the motion which was unanimously approved.
- d) Mr. Murphy reported that he received a complaint about Warden Motherway during an incident with clambers harvesting in closed/illegal waters, and that he will follow up with a conversation with the warden to see what occurred to promulgate the complaint.

6) *Scallop Rehabilitation Program Update*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the structures permit had not yet gone to public notice.
- b) Mr. Desbonnet reported that TNC is interested in knowing more about the "granted" bottom in Stonington, and requested some information from the commission. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to contact TNC personnel and invite them to a meeting in either September or October to determine specifically their interest.

7) *Review of Aquaculture Application AQP-05-2007-2017*

- a) Steve Plant reviewed the specifics of the application to the commission. All activities are on bottom without any "gear" being used. In general, the intent is to use the requested area as a nursery ground for oysters destined for growout at a Ram Island site.
- b) After review the commission agreed that the application was sufficiently complete to move to the public notice phase, provided that the applicant corrected the acreage requested as the calculation used to arrive at the value on the application was incorrect. Steve Plant agreed to do so.
- c) Mr. Murphy will notify the Mystic River Harbor Management Commission of the application, and the commission will plan the public hearing for the October meeting, giving the harbor commission time to review the application and comment, if desired.

8) *Commercial Activities*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that Paul Watts was issued commercial permit #07-02.
- b) Steve Plant reported that he has moved all his efforts to the Beebe Cove as the other site was experiencing too much mortality during storm events.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dock Application #200502584-DL (Horblit). Mr. Murphy reported that DA/BA had filed “no significant impact” regarding this application. After further discussion it was agreed that the commission had no further comments.
- Ms. Getchis reported that the minimum legal oyster size of 3 inches should be posted on commission regulation sheets. Mr. Murphy agreed to add such wording prior to having new pages printed for distribution.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Banister made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Ms. Getchis. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary