

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

**07 February 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 7:04 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister to accept the 06 December 2006 minutes as amended to correct 2 typographic errors. Mr. Murphy made a second to the motion which was approved, Mr. Swenarton and Ms. Getchis abstaining.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A letter dated 03 January 2007 from Jim Citak; DA/BA to Mr. Brown, First Selectman re: renewal of the shellfish harvest/management MOU.
2. An undated letter (received 06 Jan 2007) from Mr. Ferrara to the Shellfish Commission re: application for site renovations at Browers Cove Marina.
3. A letter dated 16 January 2007 from Mr. Desbonnet to The Nature Conservancy re: proposal for funds to conduct scallop rehabilitation activities.

**BUSINESS**

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
  - a) Area A, B and Outer Quiambog Cove were open the entire month of December, then closed 01-15 January and then open the rest of the month.
- 2) *Renewal of MOU between DA/BA and Town of Stonington*
  - a) Mr. Murphy gave a brief overview of the renewal, noting that the only major change is procedural, that being the addition of the Director of Health/Town Sanitarian as the responsible party for closing shellfish beds if the commission is unable to do so. The First Selectman has agreed to the terms and it is expected that the MOU will be signed soon. Mr. Murphy reported that he has already been in contact with the Town Sanitarian to bring them up to speed on the closing procedures.
- 3) *Management of Commission Funds*
  - a) Mr. Murphy reported on the findings of Mr. Raffo's research on the potential to invest commission funds. At present commission funds are earning 1% interest in a savings account, so it would be beneficial to invest funds in either CD or Money Market accounts. After some discussion, it was agreed to move forward in allocating approximately \$40,000 for investment in CD accounts not to exceed 1-year in term, and to place the balance in a Money Market account that would be readily accessible if needed. Mr. Murphy will request that Mr. Raffo proceed in moving commission money as noted.
- 4) *Equipment*
  - a) Mr. Murphy reported that he has purchased a new seat for the boat, and that it will go on during spring commissioning for the water.

- b) Mr. Banister reported on his findings from researching costs for outboard engines. After the summary was presented, Mr. Murphy noted that at present the outboard on the boat has been fixed and there is no pressing need to consider the purchase of new engine. The findings Mr. Banister presented will be kept for future reference, as needed.
- 5) *TNC Scallop Rehabilitation Project*
- a) Mr. Desbonnet reported the commission has been awarded \$20,000 for scallop rehabilitation work by The Nature Conservancy. There is no need for further paperwork in order to proceed, and TNC staff would like the commission to proceed with planning to get scallops in the water in time for spawning this year. It was agreed that the commission would conduct a workshop to develop a plan for the field efforts before the March meeting. Mr. Murphy agreed to send out an email solicitation for a meeting date during the middle of the week of the 19<sup>th</sup> of February. Eric Limouze and Ed Bridgman from (Purity Processed Seafood/Mystic Seafood) noted that they may have some scallop culture gear available for use if it was appropriate and if the commission was interested. Mr. Murphy agreed to check back once details of the project were in place.
- 6) *Discussion of Scallop Project Design*
- a) This agenda item was tabled until such time as the workshop noted in 5 a) above takes place.
- 7) *Commercial Activities*
- a) Kevin Blados reported he is working only in Groton at the moment.
  - b) Eric Limouze from Purity Processed Shellfish reported that they are working again in the area, in partnership with Mystic Seafood, and are interested in pursuing work in areas previously harvested.
  - c) Ed Bridgman from Mystic Seafood noted that he had filed an application for a commercial permit, and Mr. Murphy acknowledged receipt of application and payment, noting that the permit would be developed. Ed also reported that he is interested in exploring other areas for potential commercial activity, and was instructed to submit a letter of request to the commission to conduct surveys, as appropriate, to which he agreed.

#### NEW BUSINESS

\*\*\*none\*\*\*

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 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary