

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

**07 November 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. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton, Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Secretary and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister to accept the 11 October 2007 minutes as presented. Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion which was approved, Ms. Getchis and Mr. Desbonnet abstaining.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A letter dated 10 October 2007 from CTDEP to Mr. Murphy re: Coastal Permit Application #200701074-MG; application for aquaculture permit.
2. A letter dated 17 October 2007 from Walter Blogoslawski, NOAA Milford Lab to Mr. Murphy re: Aquaculture Seminar announcement.
3. A letter dated 26 October 2007 from Steve Plant/Connecticut Cultured Oysters, to Mr. Murphy re: application for aquaculture in Stonington waters.
4. An email addressed 05 November 2007 from Mr. Grzywinski, CTDEP to Mr. Murphy re: extension of date due for comments on permit #200003372-MG; McCagg.

**BUSINESS**

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
  - a) Area A and Outer Quiambog Cove were open the entire month of October; Area B was closed all month as per the MOU but will be opened shortly, once the threat of significant rainfall is past.
  - b) Mr. Murphy reported that Warden Motherway is patrolling, but on a much reduced basis.
- 2) *Scallop Season Update*
  - a) Mr. Murphy reported that NMFS divers visited town waters in early October, finding few adult scallops for their breeding program. A variety of different sized scallops were broadcast into town waters by the NMFS divers and Warden Motherway. NMFS divers will return in early November to check on survivorship of the seeded scallops.
- 3) *Update on The Nature Conservancy Scallop Initiative*
  - a) The commission reviewed the request submitted by CTDEP for further information re: aquaculture permit application. After discussion, Mr. Murphy agreed to respond as appropriate.
  - b) Mr. Swenarton made a **motion** to allocate up to \$220.30 for permit fees for the aquaculture application. Mr. Banister made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.

- 4) *Dock Application No. 200003372-MG; McCagg*
  - a) The commission reviewed the proposal and agreed that it would submit the same letter submitted previously regarding this permit, noting that eelgrass has been present at the site in the past and that the area has been used as a scallop seeding area when eelgrass is present. Ms. Getchis suggested that the commission submit the location of previous eelgrass existence to the Natural Diversity Database maintained by DEP. Mr. Murphy agreed to develop and submit the letter.
  
- 5) *Dock Application No. 200103468-MG; Elish*
  - a) The commission reviewed the proposal and agreed that it would submit the same letter submitted previously regarding this permit, but under the name Qua, noting that eelgrass has been present at the site in the past and that the area has been used as a scallop seeding area when eelgrass is present. Mr. Murphy agreed to develop and submit the letter.
  
- 6) *Dock Application No. 200602667-DL; Masons Island Yacht Club*
  - a) The commission reviewed the proposal and agreed to submit a letter noting no conflict with eelgrass or shellfish resources. The letter will note that the floating dock would be in a Conditionally Managed area that is closed to shellfishing during the boating season. The commission will request the dock be removed during the period 01 November to 30 May so as not to conflict with recreational shellfishing activities.
  
- 7) *Dock Application No. 200700117-DL; Bottaro*
  - a) The commission reviewed the proposal; no comment will be filed.
  
- 8) *Commercial Activities*
  - a) Paul Watts reported that he owes the commission 1 bushel of clams. Mr. Murphy requested that he broadcast the clams into Area A at his convenience.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- GIS TRAINING PROJECT—Ms. Getchis summarized a grant proposal to train shellfish commission members in GIS. The grant to CT Dept. of Agriculture must be submitted by a town commission, and requested that the commission sponsor/host the grant.
  - Mr. Desbonnet made a motion to submit a grant to CT Dept. of Agriculture, as host/sponsor, to conduct GIS training for shellfish commissions. Mr. Raffo provided a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- 9) *Application for Aquaculture License No. AQP-06-2007-2017—Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc.*
    - a) As the application had been presented at the October meeting, Mr. Murphy opened the Public Hearing session of the application process:
      - i) Mr. Paul Watts, Harbor Master, noted the existence of a mooring grid/mooring plan for the area of the proposed aquaculture, and wanted to be sure that there were no conflicting uses. After comparison of the areas and uses, no conflict was found to exist. Mr. Watts had no further comments.
    - b) No further public comment was requested by the audience; Mr. Murphy closed the Public Hearing session of the application process.
    - c) Mr. Desbonnet made a **motion** to approve Aquaculture Application No. AQP-06-2007-2017, as presented, for licensing pending agreement among both parties on

remuneration to the commission. Mr. Banister provided a second to the motion which was unanimously approved.

- d) Mr. Desbonnet made a **motion** to enter Executive Session to discuss remuneration for Aquaculture License No. AQP-06-2007-2017. Mr. Raffo provided a second to the motion. The commission entered Executive Session at 8:26 PM with members Banister, Getchis, Raffo, Swenarton, Desbonnet and Murphy in attendance. The commission came out of Executive Session at 8:34 PM; no votes were taken while in Executive Session.
- e) After discussion, it was agreed by Kevin Blados/Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc., to pay to the commission, in remuneration for use of Town of Stonington bottom for aquaculture operations, the sum of \$60 per acre per year, in cash, cash value in shellfish, cash value in services in support of commission activities or programs, or in some combination of these, to be agreed upon annually for the term of the license agreement.
- f) The commission agreed to develop and execute the above agreement at its earliest convenience, and that work may commence on the site at the discretion of the license holder, and as stated in the approved application.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Raffo made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Banister. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary