

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

06 March 2008

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the Human Resource Building. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister to table the 06 February minutes due to lack of previous members. Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion which was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 16 February 2008 from Ms Susan Bailey to Mr. Murphy, re: comments on dock application no. 200500455-SB (Ayers).
2. A letter dated 18 February 2008 from Mr. Keith Neilson to Mr. Murphy to re: comments on the Elesh and McCagg dock application no. 200003372-MG (McCagg).

BUSINESS

1) Conditional Shellfishing Areas

- a) Area A, B and Outer Quiambog Cove were open 01-26 November, closed February 2, 2008 due to rainfall. These areas were reopened February 10, 2008. They were closed again February 13, 2008, opened February 22, 2008. They were closed again February 24, 2008 and opened again March 3, 2008.
- b) BA/DA on February 19, 2008 tested for meats of shellfish as well as water quality. All were clean.
- c) February 24, 2008 there was a closure of Area A, B, Outer Quiambog and all areas west of Liddy Island due to a sewer line leak from the pipe under the bridge of Rt.#1 above Pequotsepos Cove, Mystic, CT. There was estimated to be 2,000 to 4,000 gallons of raw sewage that leaked. Sampling was done 3 March 2008 and all samples were clean. There was a large amount of press interest in this event. Steve Plant indicated that it was a good test of the successful workings of the closure alert procedure.

2) Financial:

- a) Mr. Raffo shared his findings of possible ways to make the Commissions monies grow. He said the town has a money market that we could invest in that pays 4% (that may be less now due to more recent cuts in interest rates). There are some restrictions on the access to the monies; however, the commission can make 4 withdrawals during a year. Mr. Banister made a **motion** to put \$40,000 of the Commissions funds into the town money market. That would leave the equivalent of the normal operating budget expenses still available. Mr. Raffo seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

3) Scallop Project Update

- a) Mr. Murphy reported CTDEP has contacted Dept. of Agriculture and the permitting process is moving forward. The hope is we will have the structures permit by late April or early May. If so, the project can still go forward this year.

4) *GIS Training Grant from DA*

- a) Mr. Bessette of the Town of Stonington in a March 5, 2008 email said that the funding for the training is on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen in Stonington for March 12, 2008 for their signature. The UConn participation in this training is moving forward. Mr. Murphy said he would attend the training and was looking for one other participant from the Commission.

5) *Dock Application No. 200402513-DL (Doogan)*

- a) There was no concern raised by the Commission regarding this application.

6) *Dock Application No. 200702249-DL (Davis)*

- a) There was no concern raised by the Commission regarding this application.

7) *Dock Application No. 200601970-DL (Lancto)*

- a) There was no concern raised by the Commission regarding this application.

8) *Dock Application No. 200003372-MG (McCagg) and dock application no. 200103468-MG (Elesh)*

- a) Mr. Nielson of Docko Corp. presented the latest revisions that have been made to the dock design. These were primarily made to address the DEP concerns. The dock was shortened by 30 feet, there were davits put on both sides of the dock, and the dock was oriented to the south to minimize shading.
- b) Mr. Banister indicated that the Commissions objections to the dock had to do with the impact on eelgrass and boat traffic. There was further discussion about boulders some of which would be removed but others not which would perhaps require a sort of channel to get to the dock. Thus, the impact on eelgrass would be confined or minimized.
- c) Mr. Murphy indicated his struggle between the right of the owner to wharf out and the environmental concern.
- d) Mr. Raffo made a **motion** to withdraw the Commission's concern about the McCagg and Elesh dock application. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved with Mr. Murphy and Mr. Raffo voting in favor of the motion; Mr. Banister voting against.

9) *Commercial Activities*

- a) Kevin Blados reported he has not done any further work.
- b) Steve Plant reported that he continues to harvest stock, weather permitting. He also accepted a later Public hearing date for the May Commission meeting for his License application *No. AQP-07-2008-2018*.

No further business was discussed. Mr. Banister made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Raffo. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Banister; Acting Secretary