

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

06 August 2008

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

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to approve the 02 July minutes as presented. Mr. Banister provided a second to the motion, which was passed, Mr. Swenarton abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 04 August 2008 from David Corey, DA/BA to Mr. Haberek, First Selectman, re: shoreline sanitation survey.
2. A letter dated 14 July 2008 from Joyce Ballou, Greenhaven Marina to Mr. Murphy re: request to sell shellfish permits.

BUSINESS

1) Conditional Shellfishing Areas

- a) Area A and Outer Quiambog Cove were open 01-23 July, and closed 24-31 July. Area B was closed all of July as per the MOU.
- b) Mr. Murphy reported that people out clamming are pleased with the number of clams available, and due to the stocking by the commission; permit sales are about even with previous years, despite the increased permit fee.
- c) Mr. Murphy reported that Warden Motherway suggested adding wording about Area B closure to the maps distributed with permits. Mr. Murphy added this, noting that the web pages should be updated accordingly as well. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to update the appropriate web pages to reflect closures in Area A, Outer Quiambog Cove and Area B.

2) GIS Project Update

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the anticipated transfer of funds was not needed and that the town covered the costs in anticipation of receiving the second half of the grant.
- b) Mr. Banister reported that 10 areas will be demarked and entered into a GIS layer, and that harbor commission data on individual moorings should be able to be directly loaded for use into the layer the commission creates in fulfilling its project duties.

3) Enforcement & Equipment

- a) Mr. Raffo reported on an incident with police at Sandy Point that prompted the First Selectman to reproduce the historical document demarcating the CT/RI state line. Mr. Raffo provided that document to all commission members.

4) Greenhaven Marina Request to Sell Shellfish Permits

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that Greenhaven Marina has requested to be an outlet for shellfish permit sales. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to be the point person for Greenhaven

Marina, and would undertake collections, etc. as needed. Mr. Murphy agreed to put together a packet of materials for Desbonnet to deliver.

5) *Equipment*

- a) Mr. Banister summarized a meeting he attended regarding docking the commission boat at the Town Dock. In short, the commission must develop and sign, as a formality with the Fisherman's Association, a document allowing use of the dock. It was agreed that the commission do this, and Mr. Banister agreed to follow through on this item.
- b) Mr. Murphy reported that the "Wad Club" has offered the commission a berth at their docks, and would like the slip well marked to show their support of this town commission. It was agreed to accept their offer, and Mr. Murphy agreed to follow through on this item.
- c) It was agreed that the commission boat be kept at the Wad Club dock as this is most convenient for the warden, and the Town Dock slip be used as a back up or "as needed" slip for the boat.

6) *Scallop Enhancement Project*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that about half the available funds have been spent to date.
- b) Mr. Murphy reported that the scallops in the water are well overall, with fouling on the cages not being problematic so far. Spat bags are fouling more so, being in the water column, but no spat has been seen so far, though it is still a bit early for spat to be easily visible.
- c) Mr. Murphy reported that he must get an estimate of scallop cost from outside sources as the folks on Martha's Vineyard wish payment for the scallops as a donation. Mr. Murphy will check with Chris Littlefield on scallop costs and proceed from there.
- d) Mr. Desbonnet reported that Save The Bay has received some federal funds that must be used for shellfish restoration in Little Narragansett Bay, and that at Chris Littlefield's prompting he will contact the Westerly office to set up a meeting to discuss what the commission is doing and if there is a way to partner and not duplicate efforts.

7) *Commercial Activity Updates*

- a) Steve Plant reported some illegal taking of clams and oysters in the Masons Island area, involving a blue aluminum boat with an older model Evinrude motor. Mr. Murphy agreed to notify the warden to keep an eye out.

There being no further business, Mr. Raffo made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Swenarton. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary