

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

12 June 2008

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the meeting room at 808 Stonington Road. Voting members present were Mr. John Swenerton, Mr. Don Raffo, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Secretary, and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:02M.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to approve the 07 May minutes as presented. Mr. Murphy provided a second to the motion, which was passed, Ms. Getchis and Mr. Swenarton abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 09 June 2008 from Shannon Kelly, DA/BA to the Stonington First Selectman re: request for a copy of the town GIS database for conducting shoreline surveys.

BUSINESS

1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*

- a) Area A and Outer Quiambog Cove were closed 01–06, open 07–31 May. Area B was closed all of May as per the MOU.

2) *Clam Transplant to Area A*

- a) Mr. Murphy made a **motion** to allocate up to \$3,000 to purchase hard clams for transplant into Area A. A second to the motion was provided by Ms. Getchis, and the motion unanimously passed. It was agreed that effort would still be made to procure clams at no cost if the opportunity arises.

3) *Enforcement & Equipment*

- a) Warden Motherway reported that everything is in good working order, and that there was good over wintering, with little mortality, of hard clams transplanted during the fall of 2007 to Area A and other recreational areas.

4) *GIS Training*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the town project will be to map the Stonington Harbor mooring area extent.
- b) Ms. Getchis requested a summary of the project be sent to her before the end of June for inclusion in a report to the funding agency. Mr. Murphy agreed to have that completed on time.

5) *Scallop Enhancement Project*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the bags have been made, sinkers have been ordered, and that Ms. Getchis is in the process of ordering a bag closure system. Mushroom anchors have also been ordered, but there is still a need for buoys to mark the corners of the study area. Mr. Murphy noted he will contact Gilman Corp., a producer, to see if a town discount might apply. Ms. Getchis agreed to send out a notice on the East Coast Shellfish Growers list-serve for marker buoys.

- b) Ms. Getchis reported that the scallops have undergone health testing at DA/BA, but no results reported yet.
 - c) The commission reviewed the Time & Task sheet developed by Mr. Banister for the project, and Mr. Murphy noted that Mr. Banister will not be able to act as Project Coordinator for the summer. After discussion, it was agreed to ask Jon Mitchell, oceanology teacher at Pine Point School, to act as coordinator for the summer. Mr. Desbonnet agreed to draft a Letter of Agreement for the coordinator/commission so that a common frame of reference is in place. Mr. Raffo agreed to contact Stonington High School to get word out to students and teachers that there is the opportunity to interact with the commission over the summer on this project.
- 6) *Army Corps. Permit NAE-2008-1380 (Don's Dock)*
- a) Mr. Murphy announced the topic then noted that due to personal conflict he would sit out any further discussion or decision by the commission to submit comments. After further discussion by the commission, with input by Warden Motherway on shellfish resources in the area of the proposed marina expansion, it was agreed that there appeared to be no conflict with shellfish resources and/or use of the resource for shellfishing, which is not allowed due to proximity of the sewage treatment facility.
- 7) *Dock Application No. 200702542-DL (Hantman)*
- a) After discussion it was agreed the commission had no comment on the application.
- 8) *Dock Application No. 200600835-DL (Cory)*
- a) After discussion it was agreed the commission had no comment on the application.
- 9) *Proposal by Connecticut Cultured Oysters/Aeros Oyster to establish oysters in Stonington*
- a) Warden Motherway summarized the proposal for the commission, noting that as presented it represented a "put-and-take" fishery in Area A with little chance for oyster survival over the long term. He suggested the commission consider placing oysters in areas where long-term survival was possible, and perhaps where spawning/natural set might occur, such as areas along Andrew/Dodge islands. After discussion it was agreed to work with the growers to place oysters in more remote sites and follow survival over the season, to review/change regulations for 2009 as needed, then begin to establish a long-term oyster program in Stonington waters. It was agreed to invite Steve Plant back for further discussion of the topic.

10) *Commercial Activity Reports*

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There being no further business, Ms. Getchis made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Raffo. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary