

**STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

2 December 2009

A meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the Stonington Human Resources Services Building. Voting members present were Mr. John Swenarton, Mr. Donald Raffo, Mr. Alan Banister, Ms. Tessa Getchis, and Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman. Alternate member present: Alan Desbonnet.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Swenarton to accept the minutes of the 7 October 2009 meeting. Mr. Banister made a second to the motion, which was approved with exception of Mr. Raffo who abstained.

A motion was made by Mr. Raffo to accept the minutes of the 4 November 2009 meeting. Mr. Murphy made a second to the motion, which was approved with exception of Ms. Getchis and Mr. Swenarton who abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter dated 24 November 2009 from Paul Watts stating that because of an injury he was unable to do any work related to his permit.

BUSINESS

1) Alternate Member Sought

Mr. Murphy mentioned that the Commission is seeking an alternate member, and that interested applicants may submit a letter of interest to the Town Hall.

2) Minutes and Agenda Posting

Mr. Murphy mentioned that the minutes and agendas will now be posted by the Town Clerk to the Virtual Town Hall web site.

3) Meeting Date for 2010

The Commission will meet on the first Monday of each month at 7pm in the ground floor meeting room of the town Hall. However, due to a scheduling conflict, the January meeting will be postponed and likely be held during the second week of January.

4) Conditional Shellfishing Areas

- a) Area A and Outer Quiambaug Cove were closed 1-4 November, open 5-14 November, closed 15-21 November, and open 27-30 November. Area B remained closed until 10 November as a recreational boat was still anchored in the area during sampling. Area B was open 10-14 November, closed 15-21 November, open 22-26 November, and closed 27-30 November.
- b) Clams were not seeded in the recreational areas, but will mostly likely be in the near future.

5) Income and Expenditures

The Commission allocated \$3K for shellfish seeding funds and will now utilize those funds. Steve Plant and Jim Markow offered one day of work to do an Approved to Approved transplant of clams.

Mr. Banister made a motion to allocate \$59.00 for the purchase of gloves and knives for shellfish management activities. Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Raffo gave a presentation on the Commissions 2009 budget, including revenues and expenditures. He will inquire with the Town as to how we could possibly invest some funds in the Town's Money Market Fund.

6) *Regulations and Permit Fees for 2010*

Ms. Getchis made a motion to maintain the current fee schedule for 2010. Mr. Swenarton made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved. Minor editorial corrections were made.

7) *Enforcement / Equipment*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the boat has been winterized and stored at Don's Dock, though an invoice has not been received. Mr. Banister mentioned that cheaper storage options might be available and that he would investigate and report back to the Commission.

8) *Scallop Enhancement Project in Little Narragansett Bay*

- a) Mr. Murphy drafted a letter to DA/BA asking for guidance on how to proceed with the project, specifically on how and from where to secure adult scallops.
- b) Mr. Murphy and Mr. Banister will meet with Chris Littlefield of The Nature Conservancy to discuss possible strategies for the scallop project.

9) *Dock Applications*

Mr. Murphy reported that he reviewed several permitting dock applications for which the Commission submitted conditions for (e.g. standard language that no one can be prevented from access to a shellfishing area, etc.). He noted that these conditions were not in the permits and that the Commission should consult DEP about this.

10) *Summary of Commercial Activities*

- a) None to report.

NEW BUSINESS

none

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Banister made a motion to adjourn the 2 December 2009 meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission. Mr. Raff made a second, which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald L. Murphy
Chairman