

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

**01 April 2009**

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date in the community room at the Human Service Building. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenerton, Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Secretary, and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman. Ms. Tessa Getchis was present as an Alternate member.

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

A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister to approve the 04 March 2009 minutes as amended to correct a typographic error. Mr. Raffo provided a second to the motion, which was passed, Ms. Getchis and Mr. Desbonnet abstaining; Mr. Swenerton was not present for the vote.

It was agreed to move Agenda Business item f) Consider application by Mr. Christopher Dixon... to be Agenda Business item a).

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. An undated CTDEP permit consultation form by East Grant Street Homeowners Association. Mr. Desbonnet noted that the form was incomplete, not containing any detailed drawings and that it would not be possible for the commission to render an informed decision with the present materials. It was agreed that Mr. Murphy would return the forms to either CTDEP and/or the applicant noting the deficiency and that the commission would not review it without complete information included.
2. A letter dated 27 February 2009 from Mr. Desbonnet from Stonington COMO re: 07 May Sandy Point presentation. Mr. Raffo agreed to follow up on this item.

**BUSINESS**

- 1) *Dock Application by Mr. Christopher Dixon at Quana Duck Cove*
  - a) Mr. Dixon made a brief presentation of the work being proposed. After brief discussion the commission agreed it had no comment on the proposed work; Mr. Murphy will sign and submit the DEP Permit Consultation form.
- 2) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
  - a) Area A, Outer Quiambog Cove and Area B were open throughout the entire month of March.
  - b) Mike Theiler entered a discussion with the commission regarding the possibility of harvesting clams in Stonington waters for transplant to Area A; the harvest boat uses a 24-inch hydraulic dredge and draws 4 ½ feet of water, limited where it can work. Mr. Murphy discussed previous arrangements with commercial harvesters and Theiler was generally agreeable to similar terms and conditions. It was agreed that Warden Motherway and Theiler would do a trial run together, then determine how to proceed based on those results. Steve Plant agreed to assist in transplanting clams if the need arose.
  - c) Mr. Murphy briefly presented a draft plan by DA/BA to verify the "cleanliness" of conditional managed shellfish areas; this was not an action item, simply an FYI.

3) *Pine Point School Scientific Shellfish Harvest Permit*

- a) The commission briefly discussed a request by Pine Point School to harvest limited numbers of shellfish in town waters for use in science labs. It was agreed to issue a letter of agreement, as has been done in the past.
- b) It was unclear if the school would need a CTDEP permit; Mr. Murphy agreed to mention this to Jon Mitchell at the school for him to follow up on.

4) *Commission Membership*

- a) Mr. Desbonnet announced that due to other commitments, he would need to step out of the position of Secretary of the commission, and that he would prefer to serve in the position of an Alternate Member. Mr. Murphy agreed to discuss the situation with the Selectman's Office to see how to proceed in this matter. Ms. Getchis noted her willingness to change her membership status from Alternate to Full Voting Member. Mr. Swenarton agreed to serve as Secretary of the commission, but requested some consideration for hiring someone to take official minutes at meetings. Steve Plant offered to serve in the capacity of recording secretary if the commission found that desirable; it was agreed to consider this further. Mr. Raffo reiterated his idea of the previous month for the commission to purchase a laptop computer for use. Mr. Murphy agreed to query the Selectman's office regarding removal of Lance Hamilton from the commission, at which point an advertisement would be placed seeking a new commission member.

5) *Enforcement and Equipment*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that it is his intent to have the boat in the water by 01 May.

6) *Scallop Enhancement Project Update*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that Nantucket declined the request to supply adult scallops, so inquiry is being made again to Martha's Vineyard. Mr. Banister agreed to take the lead on adult scallop procurement.
- b) Mr. Murphy reported that he is meeting with Save The Bay in their Westerly office at 2:00PM on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, and invited others to join if they could. The meeting will be to discuss possible collaboration on the scallop and/or other initiatives.
- c) A "gear building session" will occur at Pine Point School on Saturday, 04 April from 9:00AM. After some discussion it was agreed to purchase 30 mesh "tubes" that fit directly over the forms. While \$3.00 per bag more expensive, there is less waste of material and less time involved; roll mesh was not available in the desired size, a major factor in using the tubes this year. More will be purchased later if need be, once the number of adult scallops available is known.
- d) Mr. Desbonnet agreed to forward "The Dredge" article to Chris Littlefield to forward to the funder as an interim report.

7) *Commercial Activities*

- a) Steve Plant, Connecticut Cultured Oysters, reported he is underway with springtime activities, and all is going well so far.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A **motion** was made by Mr. Swenarton to approve trip costs of \$234.20 for Mr. Banister to attend the eelgrass conference. Mr. Raffo provided a second to the motion which was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Mr. Raffo made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Banister. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary