

STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

6 MAY 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. Don Raffo, Mr. Alan Banister, Ms. Tessa Getchis, and Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Banister to accept the minutes of the 1 April 2009 meeting, as amended. Ms. Getchis made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved. Business item #1 was amended to reflect that it was Keith Neilson, not Mr. Dixon that made a presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) A letter dated 1 April 2009 from Mr. Murphy to Jon Mitchell of Pine Point School, granting permission to harvest shellfish for scientific studies.
- 2) A letter dated 27 April 2009 from Keith Neilson of DOCKO, Inc. forwarding consultation forms for two dock applications.

BUSINESS

1) Conditional Shellfishing Areas

- a) Area A, Area B and Outer Quiambug Cove were open 1-5 April, closed 6-15 April, open 16-20 April, and closed 21-29 April. Area A and Outer Quaimbug Cover were open 30-31 April. Area B remained closed for the remainder of the month as the MOU would go into effect on 1 May.

2) New Water and Shellfish Sampling Requirements for Conditional Shellfishing Areas

- a) New state water and shellfish meat sampling requirements have gone into effect. There is a verification process established by DA/BA for each conditional area. A number of samples are required for meat (4) and water (10) analysis. Two samples must be taken when water temperatures exceed 50 degrees F and two when temperatures fall below 50 degrees F. It is also anticipated that routine sampling will change if DA/BA uses point source as opposed to non-point source pollution as a predictor for water quality in the Town of Stonington. This will be described in our new MOU. According to our current MOU which is based on point source predictions, the Commission is required to take one sample per month during open conditions. If predictions are based on non-point sources, the Commission will be required to take five samples per year during adverse conditions such as a rainfall event. There is a caveat – no more than one sample can be taken per month.

3) Dock Applications

- a) The Commission reviewed the application for a dock permit submitted by the East Grant Street Homeowners Association. The application is incomplete after a second request for information from the Commission. The application will be returned to the engineering firm with a note saying that there is insufficient information to make a decision.
- b) The Commission reviewed the application for a dock permit submitted by Ms. Joyce B. Toft. The Commission has no objections to the application, but will submit a letter requesting that fixed and moving piers are removing by November 1 of each calendar year.
- c) The Commission reviewed the application for a dock permit submitted by Mr. Kevin McGrath. The Commission has no comment.
- d) The Commission reviewed the application for a dock permit submitted by Stonington Harbor Yacht Club. The Commission has no comment.
- e) The Commission reviewed the application for a dock permit submitted by Brewers Yacht Club. The Commission will submit a letter requiring any dredging to occur outside of the spawning period for

molluscan shellfish. DA/BA has traditionally required this window to occur from October 1 to April 15 of any calendar year.

Bill Cotter of Docko, Inc. was present at the meeting to answer questions about the above listed applications.

4) *Enforcement / Equipment*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that the boat is in the water. The issue with leakage around the plug is resolved.
- b) Warden Motherway is out patrolling. Mr. Murphy requested that the warden take a look at the inventory of safety items such as life jackets, flares, mooring lines, etc., decide what we need to purchase and do so.

5) *Scallop Enhancement Project in Little Narragansett Bay*

- a) Mr. Murphy made a motion to allocate \$315.00 to pay an invoice for the purchase of bottom bags. Mr. Banister made a second, which was unanimously approved.
- b) Peter Manganello of Pine Point School has offered to manage the project and coordinate volunteer effort. Mr. Manganello is an art teacher. He has boating experience and drove a launch in Casco Bay, Maine. His licensing allows him to operate a boat within 0.5 nautical mile from shore. Dave Prescott of Save the Bay has also offered to help gather volunteers.
- c) Mr. Murphy and Mr. Banister will pickup 7500 adult scallops from Dave Grunden (Martha's Vineyard) on 14 May 2009. Scallops will be transported in coolers and held in tanks at UConn Avery Point until Saturday. This was decided upon because most project volunteers would be available to help on the weekend.
- d) Mr. Murphy reported that he has a few more cages to build but that everything else is ready. The corner markers were installed (30-35 lbs of counter weight using barbells and mushroom anchors). He and Mr. Mitchell inspected the study area and noted that the bottom is free of algae, eelgrass is not present. Only two live scallops were observed.

6) *Summary of Commercial Activities*

- a) Steve Plant reported that it was his first day of transplanting

NEW BUSINESS

none

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Raffo made a motion to adjourn the 6 MAY 2009 meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission. Mr. Murphy made a second, which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tessa Getchis, Acting Secretary