

# STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

10 September 2009

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at the Stonington Human Services Meeting Room at 166 South Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

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

A **motion** made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the 22 July 2009 Special Meeting minutes was approved unanimously.

A **motion** made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the 05 August 2009 Regular Meeting minutes was approved 3-0 with Mr. Swenarton abstaining.

### CORRESPONDENCE

1. Memorandum dated 17 August 2009 from George Sylvestre, Director of Administrative Services to all Town Departments/Boards/Commissions and Agencies re: Strategic Planning/Special Projects Vetting Process.
2. Letter dated 26 August 2009 from Donald W. Gerwick, Gerwick Mereen, Mereen Civil Engineering and Land Surveying to Donald Murphy, SSC Chairman, re: East Grand Street Homeowners Association Dock Application Notice of Permit Application published in The Day newspaper.
3. Letter dated 2 September 2009 from W.G. Vaiciulis, Vaiciulis Engineering, LLC to Donald Murphy, SSC Chairman, re: Robert Bescher Dock Application Notice of Permit Application published in The Day newspaper.

### BUSINESS

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
  - a) Conditional Areas A and Q were opened for the month of August 2009 until the 29<sup>th</sup> when ~ 2" or rainfall forced closure. Timely sampling and testing by Mr. Murphy and DA/BA staff allowed these areas to reopen for the Labor Day weekend.
- 2) *2009-2010 Scallop Season* – A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister and seconded by Mr. Raffo to open the scallop season at sunrise on 10 October 2009 and close it at sunset on 31 March 2010 under the same limits, permit structure and fees as last year's season. The motion was approved unanimously
- 3) *Enforcement* –Mr. Raffo presented examples of waterproof license holders to encourage individuals to carry their licenses with them while shellfishing. This is a common enforcement issue, based on discussions with Shellfish Warden Motherway. There was discussion of providing holders when permits were sold, and what useful information that could be printed on the holders. Mr. Raffo will gather more information and report back to SSC at a later meeting.
- 4) *Geospatial Technologies to Improve Shellfisheries Management Project* – Mr Murphy provided responses to a follow-up survey on the GIS training sent out by Tessa Getchis. Mr. Murphy also presented project summaries he provided to Bob Bessette on the GIS training and the Scallop Enhancement Project.
- 5) *Update on the Scallop Enhancement Project in LNB (The Nature Conservancy)* – Marker buoys will need to be retrieved. Mr. Murphy will contact Jon Mitchell from Pine Point School to arrange to have this done.
- 6) *Summary of Commercial Activities* – Two Commercial Shellfish Harvest Permits were issued (to Mike Theiler and Paul Watts). Mike Theiler is expecting to start in late September. Steve Plant reported heavy infestation of oyster drills in some of his beds. Kevin Blados reported that he is working his area on the west side of Masons Island. A call was received from Tom Blumie of Murphy Pt. expressing interest in conducting aquaculture in Stonington waters. He is currently researching the SSC website.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Banister made a motion to adjourn, which Mr. Raffo provided a second. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.

Respectively submitted,  
John Swenarton, Acting Secretary