

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

08 July 2010

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date Town Hall. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Acting Secretary, and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to approve the 07 June 2010 minutes as presented. Mr. Banister provided a second to the motion, which was passed, Mr. Desbonnet abstaining.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A memo dated 03 June 2010 from Stonington Finance Director to Boards and Commissions re: Year to Date Budget Reports.

BUSINESS

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
 - a) Area A and Outer Quiambog Cove were open the entire month of June. Area B was closed as per the MOU with DA/BA.
 - b) Mr. Murphy reported nearly 500 recreational permits sold to date, a reflection of little rainfall. Water quality samples taken by DA/BA were all good, again due to lack of rainfall.
 - c) Mr. Raffo made a **motion** to allocate \$120.00 to the commission's Boat US membership for the 2010 season. Mr. Banister made a second to the motion which was unanimously approved.
- 2) *Enforcement*
 - a) Mr. Murphy reported that the warden continues to make patrols regularly, and that there has been an issue with a particular recreational shellfisher taking clams from Area B (closed as per MOU); no legal action yet taken.
- 3) *Dock Ramp in Mystic River—Presentation*
 - a) Docko, Inc., in collaboration with Sloan Danenhowe; Marine Services/Contracting, made a presentation about a proposed amphibious vehicle ramp in the Mystic River. In summary, a 30 foot wide channel, of 4 foot depth, would need to be dredged from shore to the existing channel/fairway. Work would occur in the fall months, taking approximately 15 days (1 dredge load per day).
 - b) The commission will formally review the project when CTDEP submits plans for review during the public notice process.
- 4) *Vorster Dock Application for 28 Harbor View Terrace*

- a) After discussion, it was agreed that no comments would be submitted on this proposed project by the commission.

5) *Use/Sale of Commission Marker Buoys*

- a) Mr. Banister summarized the opportunity to provide unused marker buoys to the Stonington Harbor Management Commission (SHMC) to mark “no wake/slow zone” areas in Stonington Harbor. After discussion it was agreed that the Shellfish Commission should retain ownership of the buoys, but would be willing to allow use.
- b) Mr. Raffo made a **motion** to allow the Stonington Harbor Management Commission use of the four (4) sombrero marker buoys currently in storage as they see fit for boating safety purposes in waters of their jurisdiction. The Shellfish Commission retains ownership of the buoys, and will provide SHMC a 1-year lead time if return is required. While ownership remains with the Shellfish Commission, all liability, storage, and maintenance of the buoys is the responsibility of the SHMC during use. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Desbonnet, and the motion was approved, Mr. Banister abstaining.

6) *Yankee Oyster, LLC Aquaculture Application Review*

- a) The applicant provided copies of Town Clerk verification of bottom availability, and copies of a bottom survey currently underway at the proposed site.
- b) A revised copy of the application for aquaculture was submitted by the applicant. Revisions were:
 - i) Two (2) separate plots were originally requested. The southern plot conflicted with an existing state lease area, and so has been removed from the application.
 - ii) The northern plot has been expanded to make up a total of 14 acres, as originally requested.
- c) The applicant noted a bottom survey is underway in accordance with CTDEP requirements. Mr. Murphy noted that the commission only needs a simple presence/absence of eelgrass map from the applicant, not the full survey results.
- d) The applicant reported they are in the process of acquiring all appropriate state and/or federal permits needed to conduct aquaculture, and would prefer to proceed with the town permit process in step with ongoing licensing/permitting processes. This was agreeable to the commission.
- e) After further discussion it was agreed that the application was complete and could be moved into the formal process by the commission. Mr. Murphy agreed to submit a copy to the Mystic River Harbor Management Commission as a courtesy, noting that if they have comments they will need to submit them through the open Public Notice/Public Comment period as the area applied for is not within their jurisdictional boundaries.
- f) Mr. Banister made a **motion** to accept the application as complete and that it move into the formal application process as established in the commission’s “management plan.” Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved. A September Public Hearing will be planned unless the applicant requests a change.

7) *Commercial Activities*

- a) Steve Plant, Connecticut Cultured Oysters, reported that it appears that the entire Mystic River will become a “no wake/slow zone” in the near future; the public hearing had no one speak against the proposal. Plant also reported he has been gathering lots of hard clams at Clam Point during normal aquaculture operations, and that he will

depurate them and give them to the warden to transplant into recreational shellfishing areas in town waters.

NEW BUSINESS

---none---

There being no further business, Mr. Banister made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Raffo. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Desbonnet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alan Desbonnet; Acting Secretary