

**STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

15 December 2010

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the Stonington Human Services Meeting Room. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Carl Hillegass, and Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Banister to accept the minutes of the 1 November 2010 meeting. Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion, which was approved with exception of Ms. Getchis and Mr. Hillegass who abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 28 October 2010 was sent from First Selectman Edward Habarek Jr. to Mr. Murphy re: appointment of Mr. Hillegass to the Commission.
2. A letter dated 1 November 2010 was sent from Mr. Paul Watts to Mr. Donald Murphy re: harvest report for 2010.
3. A letter dated 7 November 2010 was sent from Mr. Murphy to Mr. David Prescott of Save the Bay re: granting permission for Prescott to harvest scallops from LNB.
4. A letter dated 1 December 2010 was sent from Mr. David Lameroux Jr. to Mr. Murphy of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection re: new policy on importation of shellfish.

BUSINESS

1) Conditional Shellfishing Areas

- a) Area B could not be opened per the MOU because a boat was still located in the area. Area B was opened on 16 November and for the remainder of the month.
- b) Area A and Outer Quaimbaug Cove were opened for the entire month of November
- c) All conditional areas are now closed due to heavy rain. Mr. Murphy will take samples tomorrow (16 Dec) to help determine if conditional areas can be reopened. No commercial activity at this time in Stonington waters, so DA/BA (Shannon Kelly) will not be taking any samples. There will be an automatic opening of commercial area in two weeks.

2) Permit Sales and Fee Structure

- a) Mr. Murphy provided data on permit sales from 1989 to present. According to the data, the clamming population is aging. Senior permit sales have doubled.
- b) Mr. Plant recommended marketing the recreational harvest program. Commission will pursue.
- c) A motion was made by Mr. Raffo to keep the current fee structure for 2011. Mr. Banister made a second to the motion, which was unanimously approved. Alternate member's name will be added.

3) Budget

- a) Mr. Raffo reviewed the annual accounting records. After income of \$12,201.33 and expenses of \$11,206.67, the Commission's net revenue equaled \$994.66. Cash available is \$62,808.49. The expenses line up well with previous years, with exception of seeding expenditures which were high in 2010 as compared with the previous year in which seeding was not conducted.
- b) The Nature Conservancy grant account has approximately \$1,600 in it. Mr. Banister recalled that TNC told the Commission to keep the funds.
- c) A motion was made by Ms. Getchis to request a \$50 line item in the town budget for 2011-2012. Mr. Banister made a second to the motion which was unanimously approved.

4) Summary of Commercial Activities

- a) Mr. Plant remarked that sales were good. He heard news that scallops were being harvested in significant quantities in the Niantic River and inquired as to what was being seen in Stonington.

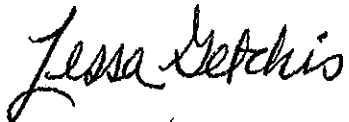
- b) Mr. Murphy stated that we owe Mr. Taylor \$155.04 and he will ask Town Hall how to reimburse him.
- c) There was discussion re: remuneration for those who assisted the Commission with the recreational shellfishing stocking program. Mr. Murphy presented information regarding boat time and value and asked other members to provide input so that a formal policy could be developed.

NEW BUSINESS

none

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Banister made a motion to adjourn the 15 December 2010 meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission. Mr. Raffo made a second, which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tessa Getchis".

Tessa Getchis, Acting Secretary