

**STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
7 April 2011**

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the Town Hall. Members present were Mr. John Swenarton, Mr. Alan Banister; Acting Secretary, Carl Hillegass and Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Review of the Minutes:

There was a motion by Mr. Murphy to accept the minutes for the 3 March 2011 as presented, seconded by Mr. Swenarton. The vote was three in favor, none opposed. Mr. Hillegass abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. March 16, 2011 a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection to Mr. Lawrence Taylor indicating under CT General Statute 22-11h subsection c. that he is not required to obtain a permit from their office to conduct aquaculture in Stonington waters “ so long as such cages are not placed on submerged aquatic vegetation/eelgrass”.
2. March 21, 2011 a letter from the US Army Corps of Engineers to Mr. Lawrence Taylor granting him permission to deploy aquaculture gear for rearing of oysters in Fishers Island Sound.
3. March 22, 2011, a letter from CT Department of Environmental Protection to Mr. Murphy, Chairman Stonington Shellfish Commission extending Permit #200701074-MG Stonington to not expire until April 30, 2012.
4. March 23, 2011, a letter from Mr. Murphy, Chairman of the Stonington Shellfish Commission enumerating and certifying the hours of on-water time for Shellfish Warden, Mr. David Motherway performed over the past 6 years.

BUSINESS:

1. Conditional Shellfish Areas:
 - a. All areas are open and we had a month of little rain and no closures.
 - b. As of May 1, 2011 Area B will be closed during the boating season.
 - c. A motion was made by Mr. Swenarton to allocate \$3500. to acquire clams to restock Area A and Outer Quiambaug Cove. It was seconded by Mr. Hillegass and passed unanimously.
2. Equipment and Enforcement:
 - a. The Shellfish boat is scheduled to be launched May 1, 2011 after Don’s Dock and PMW preps it for the season.
3. Scallop Enhancement Project update:
 - a. Mr. Murphy has received an extension on our permit from the DEP see correspondence above. He is curious why we needed to file for a permit based on recently finding CT Statue 22-11H subsection c didn’t require a permit for gear on the bottom that would not lay on SAVs/eelgrass. Numerous studies have shown there is no eelgrass in Little Narragansett Bay where the project was to take place.
 - b. CUSH data was distributed from their summer monitoring program.
 - c. Mr. Desbonnet has been asked to find out from the Nature Conservancy’s Chris Littlefield what the Commission can do with the remaining \$1500 from the enhancement project. Mr. Hillegass suggested the monies could be used to restock the recreational areas with clams.


4. Application #201006201-MG from the CT DOT to remove and replace the existing bridge #01898, Rt#1 over Stony Brook. The Commission had no comment.
5. Application #201006197-MG from CT DOT to remove and replace bridge #01900, Rt#1 over Quanaaduck Cove. The Commission had no comment.
6. Commercial Activity:
 - a. Mr. Steve Plant said he is finding a number of adult scallops in the Mystic River as he works the bottom for his oysters.
 - b. Mr. Plant said he had submitted 18 water samples in hopes that he may have seasonal conditional openings using a 1" rainfall trigger.
 - c. Schedule of Remuneration:
 1. The Commission agreed to the rate structure presented in the last meeting and this one by Mr. Murphy.
 2. This remuneration schedule will be on a spreadsheet which will be available at the monthly meetings in order to keep track of in-kind work/donations to the Commission by commercial growers.
 3. Policy: The Commission members and the commercial growers were encouraged to evaluate and review the remuneration policy. Commission members will be expected to vote on the policy after discussion at the May meeting.
7. Mr. Murphy pointed out that the Stonington Harbor Slow No-Wake ordinance was passed at a recent town meeting and as agreed earlier the buoys the Commission owns will be lent to the Harbor Management Commission. Mr. Banister will coordinate the transfer of those buoys.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

There being no further business, Mr. Hillegass made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Swenarton and approved unanimously at 8:01.

Submitted,



Alan Banister, acting secretary