

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

03 November 2011

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at Town Hall. Voting members present were Mr. John Swenarton, Mr. Alan Banister, Ms. Tessa Getchis and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman. Alternate member Mr. Alan Desbonnet, was Acting Secretary.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Mr. Banister made a motion to accept the 06 October 2011 meeting minutes as presented; Mr. Murphy made a second to the motion, which was passed, Mr. Desbonnet and Ms. Getchis abstaining.

Mr. Murphy gave a brief overview of the commission, its functions, and duties, and the shellfishing waters and resources of the Town of Stonington to an audience comprised of a Science & Policy class from Mitchell College, several Stonington High AP and CIA students, and a local Boy Scout/Eagle Scout earning a badge.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 06 October 2011 from Roberge Associates Coastal Engineers, LLC. re: Greenhaven Marina dock application/modification.

BUSINESS

- 1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*
 - a) Area A was open from the 2nd to the 19th and the 28th and 29th of October. Outer Quiambug Cove was open the 7th – 19th of October, as well as the 28th and 29th. Area B was closed as per the MOU with DA/BA, but will open in November as soon as water quality sampling is completed.
- 2) *Shellfish Boat Insurance Claim*
 - a) Mr. Murphy reported that the insurance claim to fix damage to a sailboat had been filed and paid, closing that event.
- 3) *Enforcement / Equipment*
 - a) Warden Motherway is patrolling on occasion using his skiff.
 - b) The shellfish commission boat took on water during the last storm, probably due to stern scuppers becoming clogged; the boat did not sink and no damage was done. The vessel is now out of the water for the season.
- 4) *2012 Meeting Schedule*
 - a) It was agreed to maintain commission meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month.
- 5) *Update on Little Narragansett Bay Study*
 - a) Mr. Banister provided a summary of the study to the audience.
 - b) Mr. Murphy reported on a sampling trip he attended, noting that they did not find any eelgrass nor any live clams in a transect (3 sample stations) from the Barn Island Boat

Ramp to the tip of Barn Island; bottom consistency was black mayonnaise with lots of *Cladophora* present. The class will present finding of the study to the commission in February 2012.

6) *Scallop Season Update*

- a) Few scallops are being found in the Barn Island area according to reports, with the Mystic River area seeming to be the most productive area this season.

7) *Greenhaven Marina Application*

- a) After review of the application materials, no objection was raised to the proposed work regarding impact to shellfish resources. Mr. Murphy agreed to submit the findings to CT DEEP.

8) *Commercial Activities*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported that all growers, except Jim Markow, are paid in full regarding remuneration to the commission for use of town bottom for aquaculture. Markow will be harvesting/transplanting clams sometime in November to settle his account.

NEW BUSINESS

---none---

There being no further business, Mr. Banister made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Swenarton. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Desbonnet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Desbonnet; Acting Secretary