



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2012

A special meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at the Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm St., Stonington, CT. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM
- 2) Review and approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 7, 2012 and special meeting of October 4, 2012 – This item was tabled.
- 3) Correspondence
 - a) Email dated November 7, 2012 from Alan Desbonnet to Kristine Bell, Selectman Office Administrative Assistant re: resignation from the Stonington Shellfish Commission.
- 4) Business
 - a) Introduction to Shellfish Management in Stonington for Visitors – Chairman Murphy provided a presentation on this topic to students and an instructor from a Mitchell College Environmental Science class.
 - b) Conditional Shellfishing Areas –Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason’s Island - All water samples collected on four separate dates during the month (October 2, 10, 16, and 23) had good results and Area A and Outer Quiambaug were opened on October 6. All conditional beds were closed following a rain event on October 19-20, and all beds, including those in approved water were closed following Hurricane Sandy.
 - c) Impact of Hurricane Sandy – There was not as much rain as expected although storm surge was significant. The Mystic sewage treatment plant was challenged but Town staff was able to keep the plant functioning and avoid any direct releases. Due to concerns for home heating oil releases and possible pesticide contamination, the State Dept. of Agriculture, Aquaculture Division has closed all shellfishing beds in Connecticut for an undetermined period until a thorough assessment is completed.
 - d) Equipment
 - i) Removal of the Commission’s boat from the water & winter storage – The SSC boat was hauled the Sunday before Hurricane Sandy (October 28) and prepared for storage.
 - ii) Repair or replacement of center console cover - Dave Motherway reported that the console cover was in need of repair. Chairman Murphy will look into vendors to do the repairs or make a replacement.
 - e) Enforcement – Update on the Warden Hiring Process – Developed an evaluation process for candidates for the position of shellfish warden – There was discussion and consensus on the process of application, review, and candidate interviews for the Shellfish Warden position. Interviews for selected candidates will be conducted during a Special Meeting on October 13 or 15, depending on their availability.
 - f) Summary of commercial activities – Mr. Murphy reported that aquaculturists Steve Plant and Jim Markow sustained significant damage to boats from Hurricane Sandy. Jim Markow has had to postpone a planned harvesting of hard clams for restocking as part of his remuneration. His remuneration balance will be carried over to 2013. A Monthly Harvest Report for September was

submitted by Fred Emery, who has suspended clamming for the time being. Remuneration status of licensees was reviewed and all are in good standing.

- 5) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn was made by Mr. Banister, seconded by Mr. Swenarton and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Swenarton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John T. Swenarton, Acting Secretary