



Town of Stonington Shellfish Commission

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2012

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

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.
- 2) Review of the Minutes - It was not possible to approve any pending minutes from past meetings due to a lack of a quorum from those meetings.
- 3) Correspondence
 - a) November 16, 2012 a letter from the First Selectman's office requesting submission of the budget from the Shellfish Commission.
- 4) Business
 - a) Conditional Shellfish Areas:
 - i) The month of November was very dry but we were closed due to Hurricane Sandy until Nov. 21, 2012 when the Conditional Areas A, B, and Outer Quiambug Cove were opened.
 - ii) Meats were sampled Nov. 18 and found to be perfectly clean.
 - iii) Closure of Area B is now specified as the first of November so long as there are not many boats still in that area. This is a change from the "single boat = closure" procedure that used to be the case.
 - iv) The Shellfish Commissions are invited to the annual meeting of Commissions at the Sound School on Dec. 26, 2012. Cost to commissions is \$20/attendee for lunch. Those interested should be in touch with Mr. Murphy.
 - b) Meeting Schedule for 2013:
 - i) It was agreed that the Commission would keep its present meeting schedule for the coming year 2013, the first Thursday of the month at 7pm in the basement meeting room of the Town Hall.
 - c) Review of Income and Expenses for 2012:
 - i) Mr. Raffo reviewed the year's income and expenses. His findings were that the Commission almost broke even with sales of permits and expenses. However, he expects less income next year with an aging population qualifying as seniors and more expenses with our new warden's salary.
 - d) Set Regulations and Permit Fees:
 - i) Discussion to improve town shellfishing maps by: using Landscape presentation, including Rt#1, eliminate Conditional areas from the recreational map and eliminate some of the information on the maps – currently TMI. Mr. Murphy will consult with Sea Grant office for maps and will make a proposal to the Commission.

- ii) A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to maintain fees and regulations as they currently are until we collect more data about use fees during 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Banister and passed unanimously.
- e) Budget Request for Town of Stonington 2013-2014.
 - i) The Commission is currently self-sufficient but Commission would like to keep its \$50 line item for expenses. A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to maintain the \$50 line item request, seconded by Mr. Banister and approved unanimously.
 - f) Sea Grant Pamphlet improvement:
 - i) The Commission generally felt the pamphlet was a good document for the State particularly with the comparisons among all State Commissions fees and regulations.
 - ii) One suggestion was to eliminate Conch, Welks or Scungilli from the pamphlet since they are not regulated by any commission.
 - g) Commercial Activity:
 - i) Mr. Murphy joined Mr. Plant for on-water oyster aquaculture experience and found it informative.
 - ii) Mr. Plant lost his boat in the hurricane but is using the pontoon boat to carry on his business which is slow until he gets his new boat properly set up.
 - h) Schedule of Remuneration:
 - i) It was recommended that due to the hardships of the hurricane, Mr. Markow's fee be allowed to carry his balance of \$615 into 2013.
 - ii) Mr. Plant and Mr. Blados are completely paid up for 2012.
- 5) New Business - No new business.
- 6) Adjournment - There being no further business, Mr. Raffo made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Mr. Banister and approved unanimously at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan Banister, Acting Secretary