



**Town of Stonington**  
**Shellfish Commission**  
152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**February 7, 2013**

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. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton; Acting Secretary, Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman.

- 1) Call to order - Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM
- 2) Review and approval of the minutes of the following meetings: regular meeting of March 7, 2012, special meetings of October 4, 2012; November 8, 2012; November 15, 2012; and regular meeting of December 6, 2012.
  - a) A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister and seconded by Mr. Raffo to approve the March 7, 2012 regular meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention (Mr. Murphy)
  - b) A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Swenarton to approve the October 4, 2012 special meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention (Mr. Banister)
  - c) A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the November 8, 2012 special meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention (Mr. Raffo)
  - d) A **motion** was made by Mr. Swenarton and seconded by Mr. Banister to approve the November 15, 2012 special meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention (Mr. Raffo)
  - e) A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Banister to approve the December 6, 2012 regular meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention (Mr. Swenarton)
- 3) Correspondence
  - a) Letter dated January 30, 2013 from Tina Wazny, Docko, Inc. to Mr. Donald Murphy, Stonington Shellfish Commission re: DEEP permit consultation form for Mr. Stephen McCabe..
- 4) Business
  - a) Conditional Shellfishing Areas –Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason’s Island - All water samples collected December 17 and 26, 2012 and January 30, 2013. All conditional beds were closed following a rain events on December 10 and 27, 2012. All conditional beds were opened on January 5, 2013 and remained open for the remainder of the month. Mr. Murphy presented spreadsheets summarizing conditional area status (open/closed) for 2011 and 2012. Results for 2011 and 2012 were similar, with Areas A and Outer Quiambaug open 56-61% of the time in both years, and Area B open 35% of the days in 2011 and 33% in 2012.
  - b) Discuss an application by Mr. Stephen McCabe to construct a dock, float and boat lift on the east shore of Wequetequock Cove. – After review of the application, SSC members had no comment.
  - c) Review new shellfish information handout; map for the trifold and regulations, etc. – There was discussion on a revised handout drafted by Mr. Murphy, which included some revised language on prohibition of sale of shellfish by recreational shellfishers and a reminder to respect waterfront property owners. Mr. Murphy also presented a conceptual map he created as a replacement for

that currently in the trifold pamphlet. Mr. Murphy will incorporate comments received and present an update draft of the pamphlet at the next meeting.

- d) Review the input for the 2013 Connecticut shellfishing guide – Tables from the guide (Recreational shellfish permit fees, Recreational Shellfish Size and Daily Limit Restrictions, and Contact Information for Recreational Shellfishing) were reviewed. The only suggestion was to change the Stonington harvest limit for bay scallops from 1 bushel to footnote \*\*\* (Seasonal harvest only, Check with town for more information).
  - e) Discuss information from the 2013 Gathering of the Shellfish Commissions
    - Vibrio bacteria warnings in warm weather – There was discussion about possibly including a warning on Vibrio and precautions on the SSC call-in recording.
    - Verification studies for re-opening conditional shellfishing areas – Verification studies in Stonington and other Connecticut towns presented at the Gathering were discussed.
    - Clam Dig – The possibility of holding a SSC-sponsored clam dig was discussed.
  - f) Update on finances; collections, bills, and remuneration – Mr. Murphy presented a spreadsheet on the history of clamming and scalloping permits since 1989. Permit sales were reviewed. There was discussion on locker rentals at Don's Dock. An effort will be made to give away scallop bags leftover from the restoration project to reduce the need for the current three lockers. A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Banister for expenditure not to exceed \$1,300 for locker rental and boat winterization and storage at Don's Dock. The motion was approved unanimously. Fred Emery's monthly harvesting report was reviewed, as was the aquaculturist remuneration tracking spreadsheets.
  - g) Commercial shellfishing; reports and discussion – The Noank Aquaculture Cooperative has arranged a meeting with Dave Carey of DA/AB. Mr. Murphy will attend as well. William MacKay and an associate had questions about starting an oyster aquaculture project in Little Narragansett Bay and the application process. Jeremy Esposito and an associate also spoke seeking advice about a possible similar project in Quiambaug Cove.
- 5) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn was made by Mr. Raffo, seconded by Mr. Swenarton and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Acting Secretary