



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

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 6, 2013**

**7 PM**

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at the Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm Street, Stonington, CT. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton, Ms. Tessa Getchis, and Mr. Don Murphy; Chairman. Non-voting member present was Mr. Steve Brown; Secretary.

- 1) Call to order Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM
- 2) Review and approval of the minutes of the special meeting of May 9, 2013.

A motion was made by Mr. Banister and seconded by Mr. Swenarton to approve the May 2013 special meeting minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

3) Correspondence

- a) Letter dated May 21, 2013 from Department of the Army, New England District, Corps of Engineers, to Mr. Michael Smiles, copy to Donald Murphy, Stonington Shellfish Commission, concerning NESS's aquaculture application to install floating durethene shellfish bags for educational aquaculture at an existing dock in Stonington, Connecticut.
- b) Letter dated May 16, 2013 from Ms. Kristen Bellantuono, CT DEEP, Office of Long Island Sound Programs, to Mr. Michael Smiles, copy to Mr. Donald Murphy, Stonington Shellfish Commission, concerning a proposal to deploy aquaculture gear beneath existing floating docks at NEES.
- c) Email memo dated May 30, 2013 from Mr. Steve Plant, CT Cultured Oysters to Mr. Donald Murphy, Stonington Shellfish Commission, concerning a preliminary application to conduct aquaculture on a one acre lot off Ram Point, with a request to discuss application at the June 6th SSC meeting.
- d) Email correspondence dated June 5- 6, 2013 -Mr. Donald Murphy, Stonington Shellfish Commission and Ms. Getchis discussing Mr. Smiles, of NESS, requesting the placing and harvesting of 24 oysters as part of an educational event for children. This event would be part of a fund-raising event at Enders Island on August 18th, 2013.
- e) Memo dated June 3, 2013 from Mr. Paul C. Watts, commercial clammer, to Mr. Donald Murphy, Stonington Shellfish Commission, re: will not be renewing commercial harvest license for Stonington waters in 2013.

4) Business

- a) Conditioning Shellfishing Areas- Outer Quiambaug Cove and East Mason's Island - All conditional beds were opened for the entire month of May due to the lack of rainfall. Mr. Murphy collected seawater samples, and had them tested on 6/5/13, at 14 sites including the nine sites that had previously been sampled by DABA. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Banister will place shellfishing sign on Wilcox beach during the week of 6/10/13.
- b) Discussion regarding request by Allen Fee of Shaffer's Boat Livery to sell shellfishing permits- The SSC decided to deny Allen's request for the coming year, but will give him first right of refusal once Jeff Wilcox, the owner of Wilcox Marine Supply, retires and no longer sells

shellfishing permits.

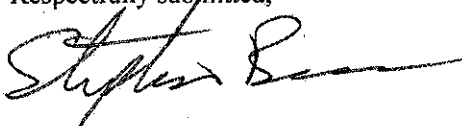
- c) Update on re-stocking conditional areas- The SCC will restock conditional areas on 6/15 unless there is more than three inches of rain.
- d) Equipment:
  - i) Status of Commission's boat – The boat is in the water and working well but needs some cosmetic care and some canvas work done on the center-console cover. Mr. Murphy will contact some potential contractors.
  - ii) Discuss disposition of bottom bags, buoys, etc. - Mr. Steve Plant was interested in obtaining the bottom bags from the SSC. The SCC decided to donate the 70 bottom bags to Mr. Plant, as the SSC will not use them in the future, and it will cost SSC money to store them and/or discard them.
- e) Discuss plans for a meeting with EPA LISS's Habitat Restoration Workgroup- Ms. Getchis informed the SSC that the meeting was a chance to establish a vision for shellfish and to get all the stakeholders together, including the Shellfish commissions. Mr. Murphy will meet with the EPA.
- f) Review of new shellfish informational handout; map for the tri-fold and regulations, etc. tabled.
- g) Enforcement; Update on patrol schedule - Mr. Rob Russell, the new shellfish warden is currently not on the payroll due to a personal injury. In the interim, Mr. Murphy is conducting patrols.
- h) Update on finances; collections, bills and remuneration
  - i) Mr. Murphy renewed the SSC's National Shellfisheries Association membership. The fee was \$85.
  - ii) Ian Hetherington, of Don's Dock, stated to Mr. Murphy that many of the permits issued each year are to senior citizens, who get their permits for free. Going forward, the SSC will discuss the idea of raising the non-resident senior citizen rate in order to recoup monies for the purchasing of clams.
- i) Discuss application by CT Cultured Oysters - Mr. Steve Plant from the Noank Aquaculture Coop asked the SSC to peruse his application to obtain a Stonington license to conduct aquaculture within the newly established Mystic Harbor Seasonal Conditionally Approved Area. The SSC advised Mr. Plant to define both responsible parties, including Mr. Jim Markow, of Aeros Oyster Company, on the application. Also, Mr. Plant will double check to ensure that a 200-foot buffer exists between his proposed beds and those already established by Mr. Blados.
- j) Commercial shellfishing report; reports and discussions- no news to report

5) New Business

Mr. Smiles, of NESS, has requested the placing and harvesting of 24 oysters as part of an educational event for children. This event would be part of a fund-raising event at Enders Island on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Because the activity would take place in conditional Area B, which is closed for the boating season as of May 1, Mr. Smiles will have to formally apply to the SSC for a specific letter of permission for that particular date and time.

- 6) Adjournment – With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Banister, seconded by Mr. Raffo and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Brown, Secretary