



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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2013
7:00 PM

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 regular meetings of November 7, 2013 – Tabled until the next meeting.
- 3) Correspondence
 - a) A letter dated November 16, 2013 from Kris Bell, Selectman's Office, to Donald Murphy, Shellfish Commission requesting completion of Town of Stonington forms for FY 14/15.
 - b) A letter dated October 2, 2013 from Joan McLaughlin, Docko Inc., to Stonington Shellfish Commission Re: DEEP Permit Consultation Form for Lawrence Rutkowski.
 - c) A letter dated October 23, 2013 from Paul Biscuti, Dicesare Bentley Engineers, Inc., to Donald Murphy, Stonington Shellfish Commission Re: DEEP Permit Consultation Form for 32 Riverbend Drive, Mystic CT (Chamberland).
 - d) A letter dated November 6, 2013 from Paul Biscuti, Dicesare Bentley Engineers, Inc., to Donald Murphy, Stonington Shellfish Commission Re: DEEP Permit Consultation Form for Chippachaug Trail, Mystic CT (Masons Island Company).
- 4) Business
 - a) **Conditional Shellfishing Areas - Outer Quiambug Cove and East Mason's Island** – Conditional Areas A and Outer Quiambug were open for most of November, closing on the 26th when more than 2" of rainfall occurred. Water testing of samples collected on November 5 and 20 from all areas had excellent results. The meat sample collected on December 1 to open Outer Quiambug also had good results.
 - b) **Update on the new seasonally conditional shellfishing area in the Mystic River** – The Groton Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by all Groton officials and only needs the WPCA Director to sign for Stonington and attorneys for both Towns.
 - c) **Application by Mr. Lawrence Rutkowski to construct a fixed pier, floating dock, and boat lift in Mystic** – SSC had no comment on this application.
 - d) **Application by Francis and Diane Chamberland to construct a timber stairway on the east side of the Mystic River** - SSC had no comment on this application.
 - e) **Application by the Masons Island Company to replace a storm drain on the east side of Masons Island** – SSC had no comment on this application.
 - f) **Financial review of the 2013 shellfishing year** – A motion was made by Mr. Raffo, seconded by Mr. Banister and approved unanimously to request that the \$50 line item in the Town budget for SSC be continued for FY 2014. Mr. Raffo then presented a spread sheet summary SSC expenses and income for 2013 and the previous 10 years. There was a net loss of \$1849.00 for 2013, the highest deficit since 2003.
 - g) **Set fees and regulations for 2014** – There were no change proposed for the 2014 Shellfishing

Regulations. There was a **motion** made by Mr. Raffo and seconded by Mr. Banister to establish recreational shellfish fees as follows: Adult Resident - \$15; Adult Non-resident - \$30; Senior Resident - free; Senior Non-resident - \$10. The motion was approved with three in favor (Raffo, Banister, and Swenarton) and one opposed (Murphy).

- h) **Enforcement** – Patrols have ended for 2013.
 - i) **Equipment** – The SSC patrol boat has been hauled, covered, and winterized.
 - j) **Update on finances; collections, bills, and remuneration** – Financial reports from the Town and Mr. Raffo all indicate the SSC accounts are in good standing. Permit sales were reviewed. There was a **motion** made by Mr. Banister, seconded by Mr. Swenarton and approved unanimously to authorize payment of up to \$809.15 to cover costs of winterizing the SSC patrol boat. Remuneration spreadsheets were reviewed. SSC agreed to carry over 2013 balances to 2014 and will continue to work with aquaculturists on harvesting local clams possibly acquiring oysters as part of restocking activities for 2014.
 - k) **Commercial shellfishing; reports and discussion** – Steve Plant gave a brief report on his recent activities. Will MacKay presented a draft Application to Conduct Aquaculture for SSC review and discussion. After some input from SSC members, he plans on making some modifications to the application and submit a final version at the next meeting.
- 5) **Adjournment** – With no further business to discuss, a **motion** to adjourn was made by Mr. Raffo, seconded by Mr. Banister and approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectively submitted,



John Swenarton, Acting Secretary