

**STONINGTON SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING**

05 September 2007

A regular meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission was held on this date at the Human Resource Building. Voting members present were Mr. Alan Banister, Ms. Tessa Getchis, Mr. Don Raffo, Mr. John Swenarton, Mr. Alan Desbonnet, Secretary and Mr. Donald Murphy, Chairman.

Mr. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister to accept the 01 August 2007 minutes as amended to correct 2 typographic errors. Ms. Getchis made a second to the motion which was approved, Mr. Swenarton and Mr. Raffo abstaining.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Banister to accept the 22 August 2007 minutes as presented. Mr. Raffo made a second to the motion which was approved, Mr. Desbonnet, Ms. Getchis and Mr. Swenarton abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A letter dated 09 August 2007 from Margo Wallace, NRCS to Mr. Murphy re: thank you for presentation given on aquaculture.
2. A letter dated 14 August 2007 from Christopher Brown, NOAA Milford Lab to Mr. Murphy re: invitation to their annual Open House.
3. A letter dated 28 August 2007 from Kevin Blados, Stonington Farm Shellfish, Inc. to Mr. Murphy re: application for aquaculture in Stonington waters.

BUSINESS

1) *Conditional Shellfishing Areas*

- a) Area A and Outer Quiambog Cove were open the entire month of August; Area B was closed all month as per the MOU.
- b) Mr. Murphy reported that Warden Motherway has ordered hard clams for transplant but that a delivery date has not yet been set. Most clams will be "cherrystone" sized.
- c) Mr. Murphy reported that activity in the recreational areas has been good due to the excellent weather, and that the warden has been using his own skiff for patrols while the commission vessel is out of order.
- d) Mr. Murphy reported that the regulation pamphlet has been updated to note the 3 inch minimum size for oysters harvested in town waters.

2) *Equipment*

- a) Mr. Banister reported that the outboard motor was purchased and will be installed sometime next week at PMW, with plans for the boat to be back in the water by Friday the 14th. Mr. Banister also noted that the towing package was purchased, and used when the boat engine failed, and therefore has already more than paid for its purchase price. Mr. Murphy thanked Mr. Banister for his fast actions on both initiatives.

3) *Opening of Scallop Season, Fees & Regulations*

- a) A **motion** was made by Mr. Raffo to open the 2007/2008 scallop season at dawn on the 6th of October 2007 and close the season at sunset on the 31st of March 2008, keeping all scallop harvest regulations and fees unchanged from the previous season. Mr. Banister made a second to the motion which was unanimously approved.

4) *Update on The Nature Conservancy Scallop Initiative*

- a) Mr. Murphy reported no change in the status of the permit but will check again soon.
b) Ms. Getchis reported that Bill Walton, Wood Hole Cooperative Extension Service, would be willing to attend a commission meeting to share insights and lessons learned from his experiences in scallop restoration efforts on Cape Cod. Ms. Getchis agreed to pursue his coming to meet with the commission sometime in either October or November.

5) *Aquaculture Application by Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc.*

- a) Kevin Blados summarized the activities proposed, noting that the Lat/Longs on the application were incorrect as they describe a rectangle and the area requested is an irregular polygon. Ms. Getchis requested he contact DA/BA who now has software to calculate irregular polygon areas. Kevin also noted that the maximum number of oysters on the cover page is to read 300,000 not 200,000. Oysters will be raised in Beebee Cove and transplanted to the area for growout without use of any submerged gear. There are no docks in the requested area and no moorings either.
b) The commission agreed that the application was sufficiently complete to go to public comment provided the applicant makes the following changes and resubmits the application to the commission on or before the 12th of September; the application will be provided to the Mystic River Harbor Management Commission upon receipt as a courtesy. Changes requested of the applicant:
i) Calculate correct acreage using DA/BA software;
ii) Correct maximum number of oysters to read 300,000 on cover page.
c) Mr. Murphy will plan on the public comment period for the November meeting.
d) Mr. Murphy reported that the commission should plan on having the public comment session for aquaculture application of Steve Plant; Connecticut Cultured Oysters at the October meeting.

6) *Commercial Activities*

- a) NO REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Getchis reported that approximately \$25 million will be available for oyster restoration efforts in Long Island Sound, and that other monies may follow. It is unknown what opportunities may be available to towns in these efforts.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Banister made a **motion** to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Raffo. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Desbonnet; Secretary