



SPECIAL MEETING

October 18, 2023

6:30 PM

A Special Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date. Members present were Chairman, Mr. Donald Murphy; Mr. Alan Banister; Mr. Donald Raffo; Mr. John Swenarton; Secretary Mr. Austin Clark. Also in attendance was our warden, Rob Russell. There is a quorum present.

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.
- 2) Comments from the public – There were no comments from the public.
- 3) Review and approval of the regular meeting minutes of September 7th, 2023. Commissioner Raffo suggested a clarifying sentence under section 6 – new business and a motion was made and seconded (Raffo / Banister) to accept the minutes as amended. Voted 5 – 0.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) The Chair included in the monthly meeting packet a letter from CLA Engineers, Inc. of a Pre-Submission Consultation Form for flooding reduction project in the Boro. Also enclosed was a letter from Coastline Consulting & Development, LLC for a Pre-Submission Consultation Form for a dock modification project at the Mystic Seaport.
 - b) The Chair shared brief e-mail communications with Emily Marquis of the DA / BA regarding the Davis Gauge versus manual gauges.
 - c) The Chair shared correspondence from the State regarding the Eel Grass Working Group and the suggestion that Commissioner Banister join the group as our Commission’s representative.
 - d) The Chair included correspondence from the Wequetequock Cove Clean Water Group and mentioned that he would be attending their meetings.
- 5) Business
 - a) The Chair shared the water quality results for the month of September. He commented that there was no sampling done later in the month due to rain fall. The recreational beds were closed from September 18th to the end of the month, and noted they were reopened on October 4th. Correspondence from the State reopened the Groton area previously closed but has closed Outer Stonington Harbor.
 - b) The application for the dock work at the Mystic Seaport was reviewed and the Commission will issue a No Comment statement for the project.
 - c) A similar discussion was held regarding the Weyland’s Wharf project in the Boro by CLA Engineers and the Commission will issue a No Comment statement for the project.
 - d) A discussion was held regarding the need to set a fee and conditions for the Stonington Farms Shellfish, Inc’s license for approximately 9.16 acres of bottom of the Mystic River, southeast of Murphy Point and the 6.86 acres of shellfish grounds in the Mystic River southwest of Ram Point on Masons Island. The Chair will work with the Secretary to establish language for the license that identifies an inflation adjustment along with market rates for the license.
 - g) Agenda item g) was moved up for discussion purposes due to its relevance to another agenda item.

Commissioner Raffo presented year to date versus budget figures, highlighting our surplus as being about \$2,000 less than budget. Invoices to pay, income and the warden's time sheet were included and Commissioner Raffo suggested at the December meeting the Commission look to set our fees for the coming year.

- e) A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Commission's consideration of contracting with Online Mooring to provide online processing for the Commission to be able to offer selling shell fishing permits online. The discussion centered around the Online Mooring's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU raised a number of questions as to a minimum charge, fees for training, per unit charge so it was decided that the Secretary would follow-up with the Online Mooring contact and get an understanding as to these issues.
- 6) In consideration of the time, it was decided to table agenda item f) and at 8:16pm, a motion was made and seconded (Banister / Swenarton) to adjourn the meeting. Voted 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark
Secretary