



Town of Stonington Shellfish Commission

152 Elm Street Stonington, CT 06378

SPECIAL MEETING

January 4th, 2024

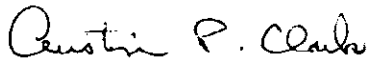
6:30 PM

A Special Meeting of the Stonington Shellfish Commission (SSC) was held on this date at the Board of Education Office at 40 Field Street Pawcatuck, CT. Members present were Chairman, Mr. Donald Murphy; Mr. Alan Banister; Mr. Donald Raffo; Mr. John Swenarton; and Secretary Mr. Austin Clark. There is a quorum present.

- 1) Call to order – Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm. The Chair took the opportunity to mention the passing of Ed Martin, the former Chairman of the Groton Shellfish Commission.
- 2) Comments from the public – There were no comments from the public.
- 3) Review and approval of the special meeting minutes of December 20th, 2023. A motion was made and seconded (Banister / Raffo) to approved the minutes as submitted - voted 4- 0 with one abstention.
- 4) Correspondence
 - a) The Chair shared with the Commissioners the notice of the annual gathering of Shellfish Commissions in the State of Connecticut on Saturday February 3rd. The agenda and registration form were included in the monthly packet.
- 5) Business
 - a) The water quality results for the month of December were included in the meeting packet. The rainfall totals for the month were discussed along with the Mystic sewage treatment plant bypass overflow as well. Both events caused the shellfish beds to be closed from December 11th to the end of the month. Though on December 31st, the State allowed outer Quiambug Cove to reopen.
 - b) Commercial Report – There was no Commercial report update this month.
 - c) Licensing Agreement - Discussion was continued from last month in the Commission's review of its Licensing Agreement. Commissioner Raffo consolidated the comments and suggestions and presented a final form for the Commission to review. A motion was made and seconded (Raffo / Banister) to adopt the amended Licensing Agreement. Voted 5 – 0.
 - d) Online Mooring Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Commissioner Clark has been working with the Online Mooring representative to suggest changes in the MOU. He noted some more work to the final form acceptable to both Online Moorings and the Commission needs to be completed. Commissioner Raffo compared the Commission's existing fee structure with the new fee structure proposed as the Commission heads toward online permit sales. The revised prices and categories were identified and the Commission agreed to adopt the new fees for the 2024 permit year. A motion was made and seconded (Clark / Banister) - Voted 5 – 0.

- e) **Annual Activity Report Form** - Commissioner Banister presented the draft of the annual activity report form and a discussion ensued to make the document relevant and contain the information that the Commission would need to determine annual usage of Stonington licensed ground. Commissioner Banister took comments and suggestions and agreed to revise his work in progress.
- f) **Financial Review** A discussion was held as to when the proper time during the year would be to send the annual fee to commercial license holders. It was recognized that with the 2023 invoices being submitted at the end of the year and a change to early in the calendar year might create a hardship for the growers for 2024, Commissioner Clark suggested that perhaps in 2024, invoices could be sent in April or May and then plan for the 2025 year to submit the invoices in January. The Chair mentioned that all, except one, commercial license holder has paid their 2023 license fee. Invoices to be paid for the month were identified. Commissioner Raffo discussed the proposed 2024 budget. Suggestions were made to adjust the website expense and income which produced a more favorable annual result.
- 6) **Adjournment** – A motion was made and seconded (Swenarton / Banister) to adjourn at 8:05pm. Voted 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Austin P. Clark
Secretary