Town of Greenwich
Shellfish Commission Meeting
January 13, 2015

Present: Roger Bowgen, Chairman, Sue Baker, Bill Cameron, Eve Duplessie, Bill Gremp, Rick Kral, Jonathan Stone

Absent: Frank Cantelmo

Guests: Michael Long, Jay Louden, Michael Aurelia

The meeting began at 5:34 pm.

Roger acknowledged the sudden passing of Selectman David Theis last month. He was a strong supporter of the Commission and will be missed.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 17, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer: Roger announced that Bill Gremp has agreed to take over as Treasurer since Walt has retired. There is one person that Roger is aware of that is interested in the opening and the Board of Selectmen will hopefully move toward filling that position soon.

Coordinator's Report: No sampling has been done lately. Jay has been keeping an eye on the seed oystermen working the Cove. They are limited to four boats at a time but this limit was exceeded a couple times and Roger had spoken to Dave Carey from State Aquaculture about it. The seed oyster permit runs from mid-December 2014 through mid-February 2015 and the Commission can decide each year whether it should continue or not. Michael Aurelia asked whether any information is obtained as to the quantities that are taken. Roger will check with Dave Carey to see if they have that information.

Recreational Shellfish Beds: Roger said the recreational beds are open but with the latest cold weather there is a large amount of ice on the flats. Bill Cameron said he has been trying to schedule a walk around the beds with Eve and Jonathan so they are familiar with the shellfish areas but the weather has not been favorable.

Touch Tank Maintenance: Roger said the top of the touch tank needs replacement due to some corrosion.

Crew Lane buoy status: Roger noted that the crew regatta is not planned for Greenwich this year. It was moved to Rhode Island. If they start the process for the permitting of the buoys Roger will notify the Commission.

Roger mentioned that he received a request from Ian McMillan regarding information that the Harbor Management Commission wanted locations of beds in relation to moorings. Roger sent an email to Frank Mazza letting him know that the Commission would like to work with the Harbor Management Commission.

J. Koven Weir Project: Roger said that Mr. Koven thought doing a documentary of the setup of the area as an oyster teaching venue could be an educational benefit. Roger said that he is waiting to hear from State Aquaculture on what is needed for approval.

NOAA Project: Jay did do one trip with the NOAA people in December and may do another next week depending on the weather.
UCONN Laboratory/ research collaboration - “Greenwich Initiative”: Roger reported that the UCONN folks are in the process of determining what they will need as far as space requirements in the lab at the Innis Arden Cottage. He will then approach Denise Savageau and the Town.

Roger mentioned that March 1, 2015 is the initial first Sunday at the cottage of the year and he is looking to have Ed Stilwagen and possibly Jardar Nygaard present a talk on what they do as commercial fishermen. He would also like to have a shellfish demonstration on that date.

Experience the Sound and Beyond: Roger mentioned that the date for the event this year is June 21, 2015. He anticipates having 20 to 30 exhibitors. This will be the 10th year of the event and he will have Patti Sechi work on a flyer for the event. Sue Baker will contact Sound Waters to see if they can get their ship to the event.

New Business: Roger mentioned that he would like to increase awareness of the Shellfish Commission. He is looking for ideas to promote the Commission and spread the word on the Commission’s mission. Bill Gremp suggested getting something out in the fall when new permits are available. Roger can have Patty Sechi make a flyer and he is looking at putting together a press release also.

Jay reported that the boat’s chartplotter was looked at and is working fine, the wiring on the boat will need to be looked at for the problem he is experiencing. A preliminary estimate he got from Beacon Point was $200. He would also like a charging outlet (for cell phones) on the boat which would also run about $200.

Rick wanted to clarify that there currently is not a Harbor Management Plan in Greenwich but that is what the Harbor Management Commission is working to establish.

The next meeting will be held on February 10, 2015 at 5:30 PM. The meeting was adjourned @ 6:25 PM.

Michael Long