



Town of Greenwich Shellfish Commission Meeting

January 9, 2018

Present: Roger Bowgen Chairman, Sue Baker, Rick Kral, Bill Cameron, Bill Grempe, Jonathan Stone, Devan Shulby, Joan Seguin

Absent: Sarah Crosby

Guests: Michael Long, Kim Bruce

The meeting began at 5:35 pm.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 14, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer: Bill Grempe reported that the funds are good \$350,918 in the receipt account. Sue Baker suggested putting money into education. Joan suggested enhancing the shellfish table at events to make it more of a draw or adding a second table near the yacht club during the Experience the Sound event. Bill Cameron suggested updating safety equipment on the boat. Kim will put a list together of items he thinks he could use. Devan suggested getting to other events around town.

NOAA and UCONN responsibilities: Roger mentioned that Devan will be the liaison with UCONN and Joan will be the liaison with NOAA. Roger said that NOAA is planning to announce a project toward the end of February on oysters and they are considering another project on clams.

Coordinator's Report: Kim reported that the boat was dropped off for service at Beacon Point and is back in service. Suggestions were made as to whether the boat needs a heater. Kim will consider this and add to the list he is making if necessary. Roger mentioned the change in Area B and the investigation. Michael Long said he will work with DABA on what they are seeing for results and next steps. Sue and Joan mentioned smelling a strong odor on occasion in the area of Todd's Driftway prior to entering the beach.

UCONN Fund raising: Roger handed out the latest draft of the letter from Conservation and the Shellfish Commission in support of the fundraising for the UCONN Foundation. Discussion ensued on the best way to get the word out, who the target audience is, how this fits in with similar groups (Soundwaters, Maritime Aquarium, Harborwatch, etc.). Devan said she will talk with an event planner she knows for ideas. Roger said UCONN folks can do talks to spurn interest.

Roger asked about using Facebook for fundraising. Joan thought just placing a link to the donation site would be the best route rather than having an intermediary (i.e. Go Fund Me).

UCONN/Brunswick/Stellamar/Project: Roger noted that Jardar will be working with UCONN and Brunswick students on an oyster project. The details are still being worked out but the project may take 2 to 3 years to complete.

Existing Permits: Roger said that he will be reviewing the existing contracts the Commission has with Ed Stilwagen to make sure they are up to date. He will also be reviewing those with Jardar as well. Roger mentioned that he is thinking of a project with Jardar relocating large oysters from the Cove to promote new growth – similar to the clam agreement with Ed Stilwagen.

Weir project: Roger said that he needs to extend the permit, the weir needs more cultch and oysters placed.

Experience the Sound 2018: Roger has requested June 24, 2018 as the next Experience the Sound event. He is looking for more ideas on what to do with the event to make it more kid friendly. Bill Cameron said he had an idea that he would like to run by Roger and present at the next meeting. Devan suggested getting the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium's boat to the event.

Kelp/ Atlantic Clam Farms: Roger said that Ed Stilwagen is moving forward with his proposal. This was approved by DABA and is waiting on approval from the Army Corps of Engineers. The area to be utilized is in one of Ed's shellfish beds south of Island Beach. Roger said there will be an article in the Greenwich Time in the next day or so.

New Business: None

The next meeting will be held on February 13, 2018 at 5:30 PM in the Josephine Evaristo Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Michael Long