Town of Greenwich
Shellfish Commission Meeting
February 9, 2016

Present: Roger Bowgen Chairman, Sue Baker Vice Chairman, Bill Cameron, Frank Cantelmo, Bill Gremp, Jonathan Stone, Sarah Crosby

Absent: Rick Kral, Joan Seguin

Guests: Michael Long, Kim Bruce, Doug Campbell, Liz Campbell, Steven Schafer

The meeting began at 5:38 pm.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 12, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer: Bill Gremp said that there is roughly $261,000 between the two accounts. The report was approved unanimously.

Coordinator's Report: Kim reported that they had gone out for a run to open areas G & H today. Aquaculture would like another run this month. Kim reported that on their sampling run on January 26 the tide was fairly low when they were in the Byram area and they hit something and had to be towed in by the Police boat. Thankfully the only damage to the boat was the propeller which was replaced by Beacon Point. Kim now calls the Marine Police to let them know he is going out each time and has revised his sampling scheme to avoid low water in Byram and the Cove. Michael gave Kim a copy of a Coast Guard checklist that Rick suggested they use, or something similar. Roger mentioned to Kim to go through the list and see what equipment is needed.

Jardar Nygaard – Oyster Cages: Roger informed Steve that he had drafted a letter to Peter Tesei and is awaiting a response. Steve mentioned that he is participating in a study with Julie Rose (NOAA) – Roger said he will review the study and get back to him.

First Sunday February 7 Scallop Talk: Sue Baker said the talk given by Steve Tettelbach was great. He mentioned that not only eel grass but other marine plants as well can support the growth of scallops and that Greenwich probably has the capability of supporting them. A constant depth of four feet is necessary. He also mentioned that the loss of scallops is not only due to the loss of eel grass but also the occurrence of brown and red tides increasing the turbidity in the water.

Roger mentioned that Charlie Yarish was interested in growing seaweed in the area and maybe a scallop project could be created in conjunction with this.

Sue Baker made a motion – That the Shellfish Commission continue to explore prospects of scallops in Greenwich waters. The motion was seconded and approved by all.

Oysters in Greenwich Cove/ Cultch/ Weir Project: Roger mentioned the damage to moorings and boats with past seed oyster operations in the Cove. Ed Stilwagen informed Roger that he would be able to get close to the moorings without damaging them to get the mature oysters in the area. Roger said that he needs to contact the Land Trust regarding their properties and where they want cultch placed. Roger had placed a call to Jamie Coven and is waiting on a call back to figure out the next steps in the weir project.

Recreational Shellfish Beds: Bill Cameron mentioned that he has had issues with a family of five people recreational shellfishing. They have their permits but they are taking a lot of clams. There have been reports of them coming out twice in a day and a bag of clams was found buried in the water in an area they had just left.
There are suspicions of them selling the clams. Michael suggested that the next time they are seen that they get their names and maybe he can work with that. Bill thought it would be good get the authority to institute penalties or revoke permits into the regulations.

Roger said that overall there are plenty of shellfish in the Cove and they are very accessible.

**Meeting of Shellfish Commissions:** Jonathan Stone mentioned that the meeting was good. Talks were given on wardening issues, oyster shell recycling, and mapping. The meeting was well attended.

**NOAA Project:** Roger said that Mark Dixon has written an article on Greenwich shellfish which is due to be in the next issue of “Wrack Lines” in early March 2016.

**Experience the Sound:** Roger said the date of June 19, 2016 for the event is confirmed. Roger would like to send a post card mailing informing people of the event.

**UCONN Laboratory @ Innis Arden Cottage:** Roger said that UCONN is looking to come down on February 26, 2016 to discuss the project.

**Harbor Management Commission draft plan:** Sue Baker mentioned that she has been attending the meetings and that some progress has been made in getting them to modify the plan with respect to shellfish concerns. The Harbor Management Commission (HMC) is looking to rewrite state regulations in the area of moorings located in shellfish beds. The HMC is planning to meet with rowing clubs to hear what they are interested in doing for rowing lanes.

Roger mentioned that the Public Notice was in the Greenwich Time announcing the plans for dredging the Mianus River at the end of this year.

**New Business:** Roger announced a shellfish demonstration will be held on February 20, 2016 at 2 pm. Frank suggested that it would be helpful if people had a map they could refer to when they were at the point that showed the trails as well as the shellfish areas. Roger will look into this.

The next meeting will be held on March 8, 2016 at 5:30 PM in the Josephine Evaristo Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned @ 6:45PM.

Michael Long