



Town of Greenwich Shellfish Commission Meeting

February 13, 2018

Present: Roger Bowgen Chairman, Sue Baker, Sarah Crosby, Bill Cameron, Jonathan Stone, Devan Shulby, Bill Grempp

Absent: Joan Seguin, Rick Kral

Guests: Michael Long, Kim Bruce, Jay Louden, Jardar Nygaard, Michael Aurelia, Jennifer Turiano (Gw Time), Marija Mikoljczak

The meeting began at 5:32 pm.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 9, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer: Bill Grempp reported that he and Roger are working with Michael Long to put together a budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year. The Town wants the Commission to do what the rest of the Departments are doing for the budget process.

Coordinator's Report: Kim reported that they were out sampling last week but the samples were elevated. There was a planned sampling for this week but the rain over the weekend closed the recreational beds and the sampling would not work with the lab. They will try for next week to get opening samples.

Fracking Waste Ordinance: Jay Louden spoke about the progression of the ordinance since the last time he brought it up to the Commission. It was researched last year and is being finalized in March. Jay wanted to get support from the Shellfish Commission for the ordinance. He mentioned that Sue Baker made a motion that was carried by the Conservation Commission. Roger reminded members that the ordinance was discussed at a previous meeting and he sent out an email to follow-up but they would like the Commission's approval in the minutes. Sue Baker made a motion – "Upon review of the extensive research provided by the RTM subcommittee and given that the CT General Assembly did not pass HB 6329, the Shellfish Commission supports the banning of waste for oil and natural gas extraction that is currently before the RTM in March." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Shellfish Commissions Meeting/ Conservation Commission changes: Roger and Sue said that they learned about what other commissions are doing and noted there were topics covering kelp and NOAA projects. Roger said that he presented an overview of how the Commission worked with NOAA on their project in Greenwich. Sue Baker gave an overview of changes proposed for the Conservation Commission by the First Selectman – elimination of the Director's position and a new position created to oversee both the Inland Wetlands Division and Conservation. The Conservation Commission feels that with the change the workload will be affected negatively.

DABA Meeting/UCONN Fund raising: Roger is planning to meet with DABA and review a standard management plan template that they have and discuss what Greenwich does and in the process develop a plan for Greenwich from that. Roger said that the UCONN packet is complete and will be sent out to several potential donors and elected officials. Roger encouraged members to think about potential donors they could pass along the packet to. Roger said that UCONN is open to using Facebook to spread the word. Devan thought that could work as long as a portion of the funds are not taken and that if a link to the UCONN site is used that could work. Roger said that Geoff Lazlo, a chef, had sent him some pictures of shellfish meals that could be placed on Facebook.

UCONN/Brunswick/Stellamar/Project: Jardar said that he has not yet heard back from UCONN but that they are interested in the project.

NOAA new project update: Roger said they are looking to study a farm model for an oyster farm. Jardar said that he had supplied them with some oyster samples for testing. Roger said that the report on their completed project is due around mid-year. Roger mentioned that NOAA used GoPros in some studies and suggested that maybe the Commission try them with the weir project.

Existing permits: Roger said that he will be reviewing permits with DABA next week.

Recreational Shellfishing Demos: The decision was made to wait until the beds reopen and the weather improves before scheduling anything. Discussion ensued about the revised Area B. Michael Long will send out the latest approved map to all shellfish wardens for clarity.

Experience the Sound 2018: Roger said that this event has gotten to the size that the Town needs the Commission to take out a Special Event Permit. Along with that there are some requirements and paperwork for each of the participants to complete.

Weir documentary: John Motay told Roger that he has finished the film and could possibly show it to the Commission at the next meeting. Roger said that at a meeting he attended Save the Sound mentioned that Greenwich was the only municipality with an A-plus water quality rating. Roger is waiting to hear from Geoff Lazlo about some new recipes that they might be able to include in a recipe book.

PR Expansion: Roger mentioned that he would like to use Facebook to promote upcoming talks at the Innis Arden Cottage on blue crabs and lobsters

Kelp/ Atlantic Clam Farms: Roger said that the DEP has approved the areas after they were shifted slightly to avoid sailing traffic.

New Business: Bill Cameron brought some duck decoy gloves that he thought may be useful for water sampling in cold weather.

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

Michael Long