



Town of Greenwich Shellfish Commission Meeting

March 20, 2018

Present: Roger Bowgen Chairman, Sarah Crosby, Bill Cameron, Jonathan Stone, Devan Shulby, Joan Seguin, Rick Kral

Absent: Sue Baker, Bill Grempe

Guests: Michael Long, Jardar Nygaard, Steven Schaefer

The meeting began at 5:35 pm.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 13, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer: Bill Grempe not in attendance

Coordinator's Report: Jonathan reported that he, Kim and Jay sampled yesterday for Areas A, B, G and H. He noted that they were starting the process to remove the crane that had sunk in the Cove. Roger noted that there was a meeting with Parks and Recreation to discuss protocol for these situations and that the Harbor Management Commission is working on a protocol for response. Rick noted that typically the CT DEEP would take over with spill response in these situations.

DABA Meeting/Management Plan: Roger said the DABA is putting together a draft management plan and he will send it around once he receives it.

UCONN/ Brunswick/Stellamar: Jardar said that he has not yet heard from UCONN on this project. Roger handed out summaries of two other projects that UCONN is interested in pursuing – Microplastics and Cyanotoxins.

NOAA update: Roger said that NOAA is interested in doing a resource study of oysters in the Cove with DABA linked to the initial study they did. Jardar noted that he had spoken with Kristin at DABA and thought that a study of that type would take a while to complete. Roger said that NOAA is also interested in creating a sign at Greenwich Point that summarizes the work they have done. Roger handed out an example of what the sign would look like.

Seed Oyster Harvest Mianus River: Roger handed out a map of the area to be considered for seed oystering. He noted that the Commission can limit the number of boats, days and times for working the area to avoid overfishing. Roger said he will talk with Kristin further.

Finalization of Documentary: Roger has seen the documentary and feels it will be a good educational tool. He noted that John Motay needs to speak with Sarah and the project is almost complete.

Recreational Shellfishing: Roger said that he will be watching the weather over the next couple of weeks and if it is favorable look at scheduling some demos.

Experience the Sound: Roger mentioned that he thought of adding other food options to the event like seaweed and scallops. There are some folks coming from the lobster industry as well as blue crab. Bill Cameron suggested having a scavenger hunt for the variety of shells at the point. He will create a printout. Devan suggested a competition like volleyball, sandcastles. Roger will talk with the sailing school about what they may be able to do.

Byram River: Sarah said that she has been emailing Kristin at DABA and Julie Rose (NOAA) about ideas on how to proceed. She said that she has read a few studies and is in the information gathering stage at the moment.

Roger mentioned that he would like the Commission to consider an oyster project in the Cove similar to the clam project that Ed Stilwagen has been doing over the years. This project would farm a designated area in the cove to improve the health of the oyster population. Discussion followed as to how to proceed and whether the Commission has enough information to make a motion and whether or not the project has to go out for bid. Roger will put together more information on the project for the Commission.

Roger also said that he would like the Commission to decide on the seed oyster project in the Mianus River. He made a motion – To approve the seed oyster harvest in the Mianus River this year, Roger will come back to the Commission with the specifics of the permit for final approval by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Rick Kral and approved by all.

UCONN Fundraising: Roger said that he is waiting to hear from Chef Lazlo about doing a food event at the Innis Arden Cottage and urged folks to proceed with their fundraising efforts.

Kelp/ Atlantic Clam Farms: Roger said that the area for this has been approved and should hear about them starting up soon.

New Business: Joan asked whether a final report was done following September's Bioblitz and thought it would be a good thing to have at the Experience the Sound event. Jonathan wondered if there existed an inventory of invasive species on GIS. Roger suggested that he contact the Conservation Commission.

The next meeting will be held on April 10, 2018 at 5:30 PM in the Josephine Evaristo Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Michael Long