Town of Greenwich
Shellfish Commission Meeting
May 12, 2015

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

Absent: Frank Cantelmo, Bill Gremp

Guests: Michael Long, Jay Louden, Robert Griffith, Christine Griffith, Michael Aurelia, Elizabeth Burleson

The meeting began at 5:37 pm.

Minutes: The minutes from the April 14, 2015 meeting were approved.

Treasurer: Bill Gremp was absent.

Coordinator's Report: Jay said that he is a little behind schedule with the sampling for both dry and wet weather conditions. Jay reported that the boat is running fine.

NOAA Project: Roger passed around an email from the folks at NOAA, they would like to expand their project area and will be walking around Greenwich Point looking for other sampling points and may go out on Ed Stilwagen's boat. Robert Griffith mentioned that he has seen a decline in clam reproduction in his beds in the Stamford area. He stated that he has not seen a decent reproductive year with clams in 8 years. Roger reported that Ed Stilwagen was seeing a lot more small clams in recent years. Robert Griffith wanted to know if NOAA would be interested in including information about his areas or would like to include it in their studies. Jay noted that it could be worth passing the information along but NOAA would need to determine if the areas fit into their criteria.

UCONN Laboratory @ Innis Arden Cottage: Roger and Denise Savageau met with the First Selectman and he has given them the green light to move forward with the project. UCONN will be writing up an agreement between them, the Conservation Commission and the Shellfish Commission. They will also be working on a write up of what space they will need.

Status of Recreational Shellfish Beds/Ice Damage: Roger mentioned that the recreational beds were closed on Monday due to the number of boats moored. Roger spoke with Dave Carey about the seed oystering that is occurring off of Greenwich Point. There have been a number of shellfish boats taking advantage of this and will probably end in a couple of weeks. Roger passed out an email from Dave Carey answering questions he had about the seed oyster program.

Bill Cameron reported that it had not been a great year for shellfishing due to the winter weather and bed closures. Michael Long will forward the opening/closure information to Bill. Roger said that Ed Stillwagen had reported seeing plenty of oysters in the recreational area. Roger said that a number of oysters were killed due to the ice in the area of the gatehouse but that there are plenty elsewhere.

Shellfish Demonstration Dates: Roger reported that about thirteen kids showed up from St. Paul's to a demonstration on May 11, 2015. The weather was cooperative and everyone had a good time.

J Koven Weir Project: Roger stated that they are waiting on the results of the core samples that were taken as well as final DEEP approval of the project.
Experience the Sound and Beyond: Roger is anticipating between 20 and 30 exhibitors for the event on June 21, 2015. The Soundwaters schooner and Ed Stilwagen’s boat will be at the dock. Roger is finalizing the poster for advertising.

Sunday June 7th, 2015 Marine Safety: Roger stated that this event is confirmed and will be an annual boating safety event. This year’s event is scheduled for 1:30pm to 4pm at the Innis Arden Cottage.

Town Web Page: Jon said that he will work on getting some information onto the website. Michael Long will pass along the contact information to get that done.

New Business: None

The next meeting will be held on June 9, 2015 at 5:30 PM in the Josephine Evaristo Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned @ 6:30 PM.

Michael Long