



# Town of Greenwich Shellfish Commission Meeting

September 12, 2017

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

**Absent:** Rick Kral, Bill Grempe, Joan Seguin

**Guests:** Michael Long, Kim Bruce

The meeting began at 5:35 pm.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the June 13, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer:** No Treasurer's Report

**Coordinator's Report:** Kim reported that they are in the process of arranging for a spot to dock the boat for the winter at Grass Island Marina. State Aquaculture said they are behind in some testing, they will look at the data and get back to Kim on what testing is needed. Roger said that he is talking with Dave Carey about other testing alternatives (UCONN lab) if necessary to help make up what is needed. He also said that the Milford lab is hoping to hire more personnel which will help. Roger and Kim will try to meet with Dave to discuss options. Bill Cameron suggested that if the UCONN lab is used maybe the branch in Stamford has a courier service that could be used for sample transport to the Storrs campus.

Roger mentioned that the sampling that was conducted earlier this year and run by the UCONN lab gave a turnaround time of two weeks versus another lab that the state had used in Maine which had a turnaround of three to five months.

**Jardar Nygaard Oyster Seeding Program:** Roger mentioned that the agreement with Jardar has been completed and Jardar is interested in doing more, possibly at the mouth of the Byram River to assist in cleaning up the water. Roger said that Jardar will be putting a proposal together.

**NOAA New Project:** Roger said that Gary Wikfors told him that they are working on completing the economics portion of the existing project and it should be ready for presentation by mid-October. He also said that Julie Rose will be calling Roger soon about a new project they are interested in pursuing with the Commission.

**DABA study:** Roger asked Michael if he had heard anything as far as results of the dye testing that was completed earlier this year. Michael said he will touch base with them and find out the status.

**Weir project:** Sara said that she has done some basic water sampling and census of organisms. She plans on going out again at the end of September and then in April. Sue mentioned that she had seen Jardar place cultch in the weir area but has not seen it since placement and we need to see what is happening with it, sedimentation or current action. Sarah mentioned that John Motay was out there filming what they were doing a couple of weeks ago.

**Recreational Shellfishing:** Bill Cameron said he should have a warden schedule put together by the next meeting. Roger mentioned that a group of girl scouts are interested in having a demonstration in the afternoon of October 18, 2017 (time to be determined). Other demonstrations will be scheduled based on the tides and the opening of the beds (end of October, beginning of November).

**Experience the Sound 2017:** Roger reported that from 750 to 800 people came through and Ed Stilwagen shucked from 3 to 4 thousand oysters. Roger said that this event has reached “Big Event” status in the eyes of the Town and will be assigned to a Parks and Recreation staff member for approval. Roger is looking for ideas from members to draw more people by March 2018.

**Documentary:** Roger said that COSMO Productions is interested in doing a full scale PBS Quality Video on the topic of water quality and could provide the Commission with a quote.

**Shells from Restaurants:** Roger mentioned that the Billion Oyster Project in New York gets the majority of the cultch they need from restaurants in NYC and floated the idea to the Commission. Roger thought it could be one way of promoting the shellfish program. Questions arose as to how the shells are handled, whether the facilities clean the shells first, bacterial growth, treatment of the shells with a chlorine solution. Roger will get information from the New York City project to see how it is operated.

**UCONN BioBlitz:** Roger reported that the event starts this coming Friday between 11 and 12 with between 100 and 150 scientists coming. A 40x80 tent will be set up with tables and chairs for the scientists to set up. Roger passed out a schedule of the events for the public on Saturday. Roger is looking for volunteers to man the shellfish table on Saturday and he will email a signup sheet.

**Innis Arden Cottage:** Roger reported that the second floor clean-up at the cottage still needs to happen before UCONN will be able to use the space.

**Shellfish Promotion:** Roger said he is looking for ideas on how to promote the Shellfish Commission and its activities. The newspaper works a little but is expensive and not all press releases get covered in the paper. Devan mentioned that an Instagram account may work. She said she could create an account for the commission and she also mentioned a Snapchat account could also work.

**New Business:** None

The next meeting will be held on October 10, 2017 at 5:30 PM in the Josephine Evaristo Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Michael Long