Town of Greenwich
Shellfish Commission Meeting
November 10 2015

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

Absent: Rick Kral, Michael Long

Guests: Kim Bruce, Michael Aurelia
Jadar Nygard, Steve Shafer – Hemlock Oyster Farms
Ed Stilwagen

The meeting began at 5.40pm

Minutes: The minutes from the October 13th, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously

Treasurer: Bill Gremp advised that there is approximately $262,000 between the two accounts. Bill noted that were various boat charges amounting to $9000, which seemed excessive. A request will be made to Mike Long to obtain an itemized list of these charges for further checking.

Coordinators report: Kim advised that DABA sampling requirements were up to date. NOAA project - next sampling dates were still to be set for November.

Kim asked about the status of the new Garmin GPS purchase – Michael Long has advised the funds should be approved within November.

Hemlock Oyster Farms:

Jadar Nygard suggested that in lieu of a 2015/2016 seed oyster program in Greenwich Cove, that Hemlock Oyster cages be set in Greenwich Cove.

He proposed an agreement be reached between the Shellfish Commission and Hemlock Oyster farms to use these cages to grow oysters. Use of cages has proven to reduce mortality and increase rate of growth.

An agreed upon percentage of the new oysters would then be kept by Hemlock and the balance would be returned to Greenwich Cove at locations to be determined by
the Commission. Joan and Sarah suggested that this should also be combined with a new project of placing smaller cages in specific locations in the cove, allowing the Commission to monitor oyster growth in each area.

Hemlock Farms advised they would consider providing smaller cages to allow this to move forward.

A motion was passed to continue the discussion with Hemlock Farms as soon as feasible and to develop and permit the project with DABA.

Replacement of Shellfish Sign at Greenwich Point – Areas A-C:

Friends of Greenwich Point advised that the sign design has been approved and will be ready within the next 30 days for reinstallion.

NOAA project: NOAA advised they expect another two sampling trips will be made before the end of the year, which will complete the program. Further discussion will be held to discuss future cooperation.

UCONN: UCONN agreement discussion will recommence in December with the goal of final approval by latest end 2nd Quarter 2016.

Harbor Management Commission Plan draft: All Town Agencies and Commissions have presented their questions and comments resulting in considerable discussion.

Main points of contention are that the Plan is too big (272 + pages) and it is non-specific when it comes to the HMC’s relationships with other Town Agencies and Commissions and that this needs to be clarified.

Innis Arden First Sunday Science November 1st and Shellfishing demonstration November 8th:

November 1st discussion/talk/presentation by NOAA on the work they have been completing in Greenwich waters and Hemlock Oyster Farms/Atlantic clam farms on Commercial Shellfishing was attended by approximately 40 persons. A question and answers session produced a lively dialogue.

November 8th Shellfishing demonstration – 25 people attended and after a theoretical discussion in the Innis Arden Cottage headed out to the Shellfish beds A and B by the OGYC for a practical “dig”, which proved to be a success.

Warden Recruitment and Meeting: Bill Cameron has completed the Warden schedule for the 2015/2016. A wardens meeting and recruitment date will be set for December

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6.40pm.
Lebowitz
William J. Brems
Bill Cameron
Gershon Shue
ED STILLWAGM (cust)
Michael Aurelia
Kim Bruce
Sue Baker
Ovid & Cathy
Sarah Crabby
Jared Nystad (guest)
Hendrick
Steve Shaffer
Joan Seguin