

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES – August 11, 2010

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on August 11, 2010 at 7:30 PM in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Honorable John J. Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edward Crowley Jr., Chairman; Sanford J. Wakeman Jr., Vice Chairman; S. James Baum, MD; David Thornton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gregory D. Lanute, Secretary; Sally Harold; Cathy Raynor-Catropa

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas J. Steinke, Conservation Director

CALL TO ORDER: Edward Crowley Jr., Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM

I. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2010

Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. *moved*, David Thornton *seconded* to accept the minutes July 14, 2010. *Motion passed unanimously.*

B. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Crowley ó No report presented this evening
2. *Water and Habitat Quality:* Wakeman, Harold, Raynor-Catropa ó Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. provided copies of sampling reports and noted that the two most recent samples are generally positive except for the Pequot Yacht club area which is consistently poor and the area around the Country Club of Fairfield which is intermittent. The Southport jetty and bridge have been positive. He also presented a list he received from the WPCA of properties not connected to an available sanitary sewer.
3. *Permits and Access:* Thornton ó No report presented this evening, however, the Conservation Department is in receipt of 500 permits.
4. *Commercial Shellfish Regulations:* Crowley, Wakeman, Harold ó No report presented this evening
5. *Oyster Bed Development:* Lanute, Thornton, Harold ó No report presented this evening

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review Re: Charging of Fees to Set Moorings, Anchors and Pilings in Natural Beds within Shellfish Commission's Jurisdiction - Discussion

No discussion

B. Sanitary Survey of Shoreline's Status

No discussion

C. Reopening of Fairfield Recreational Shellfishing

(a) Review of MOU/Procedures & Agency Responsibility

Reopening will occur on Monday, August 16th. Thomas J. Steinke reviewed some of the duties and responsibilities of different agencies such as the Police Department and Sewer Plant.

The Commissioners discussed the need for publicity.

Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. questioned a discrepancy on the reverse of the map regarding a reference to seasonality. Thomas J. Steinke will review and arrange for correction.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration for Conducting a Shellfish Relay to the Recreational Shellfish Beds

The Commissioners discussed the ability to complete a relay in late autumn, after the dredging period is over. Varying types of clams were discussed and Thomas J. Steinke noted that chowder clams could be very cost effective.

Any relay would cause a closure of shellfishing for at least two weeks, to allow for settling and pending appropriate testing. Any relay would also have to be coordinated with DA/BA. David Thornton will contact Norm Bloom and Edward Crowley Jr. will contact Jim Salce regarding preparations.

Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. and Thomas J. Steinke noted the importance of completing the relay before the water temperatures drop to below 50F as improper timing may cause a closure all winter. The Commissioners further discussed logistics of a relay, including the inability to make preparations until after boats are removed from the harbor.

D. Consideration for Scheduling a Clam Clinic

The ideal time to conduct a clinic would be in the autumn before the weather gets too cold.

Edward Crowley Jr. reviewed a tide chart and suggested September 18th or 19th and October 16th or 17th as possible dates. There would be low tide in the afternoons on those weekends.

David Thornton and S. James Baum, MD will coordinate activities with Ed Jones.

There is also a need to publicize and notify DA/BA and DEP.

IV. INFORMATIONAL

- A. 2009-2010 Budget Expenditure Status ó Informational
- B. 2010-2011 Budget ó Informational
- C. Shellfish Fund Balance ó Informational
- D. License Permits issued through July 31, 2010 ó Informational
- E. Website Statistics for May and June 2010 ó Informational
- F. Phone calls for status of open or closed for July 2010 ó Informational

V. OTHER

None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. moved, David Thornton seconded to adjourn at 8:32 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Monelli

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO REVIEW, CORRECTION AND APPROVAL BY
THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD