

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – December 8, 2010**

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on December 8, 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; Gregory D. Lanute, Secretary; Paul Nelson; Cathy Raynor-Catropa; David Thornton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sally Harold

ALSO PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER: Edward Crowley Jr., Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM

II. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Election of Officers

1. *Report of Election Committee:* Sally Harold, Sanford J. Wakeman Jr., and David Thornton - Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. reported the election committee's nominations as Edward Crowley Jr. as Chairman, Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. as Vice-Chairman, and Gregory D. Lanute as Secretary

2. Vote on 2010 Officers

Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. *moved*, David Thornton *seconded* to approve and elect the officers per the nominations of the election committee. *Motion passed unanimously.*

B. 2011 Meeting Schedule

The Commissioners reviewed the 2011 meeting schedule and offered no objections.

II. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Reappointment of David Thornton to Shellfish Commission

B. Appointment of Paul Nelson to Shellfish Commission

In addition to the foregoing reappointment and appointment, Edward Crowley Jr. reported that David Hyman expressed interest in joining the Shellfish Commission. The First Selectman received a letter expressing interest and confirmed receipt via letter.

C. Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2010

Gregory D. Lanute *moved*, Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. *seconded* to accept the minutes November 10, 2010. *Vote cast with five in favor, Paul Nelson abstained.*

D. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting*: Crowley – Edward Crowley Jr. reported that no progress had been made with regard to a relay due to rain and the unavailability of Jim Salce. He also discussed briefly dredging and sand movement in Southport Harbor.
2. *Water and Habitat Quality*: Wakeman, Harold, Raynor-Catropa – Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. reported that recent sampling has returned poor results. The next sampling will be completed on or about December 20, 2010.
3. *Permits and Access*: Thornton – No report presented this evening
4. *Commercial Shellfish Regulations*: Crowley, Wakeman, Harold – No report presented this evening
5. *Oyster Bed Development*: Lanute, Thornton, Harold – No report presented this evening

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sanitary Survey of Shoreline – Status

No bids were returned on the proposed sanitary survey. It is possible that the state will complete its own survey in 2012, depending on availability and funding.

B. Report on Coordination for Conducting a Shellfish Plant (hard clam) to the Recreational Shellfish Beds

No discussion

C. Report on Coordination for Conducting a Shellfish Relay to the Recreational Shellfish Beds

No discussion

D. Scheduling of Clam Clinic

A clinic will likely be scheduled for Spring 2011.

E. License Permits - Discussion on Sale of Permits at Other Locations

Sanford J. Wakeman Jr. discussed reprinting of permits for 2011 and that Poster's Hardware used to sell them, but they no longer do.

F. 2011-2012 Draft Budget

The only difference in the budget is a small increase from the previous year.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Suppl. Agenda A. Possible Closure of Seed Oystering Upper Southport Harbor

David Thornton discussed whether the lack of a sanitary survey is a problem as no commercial operations exist in Southport Harbor. He will be attending an upcoming seminar in Shelton and reported that the area near Ye Olde Yacht Yard may be viable for establishing oyster culturing. State funding might be secured if a program is begun.

Paul Nelson discussed viability of an oyster culturing program near the park area off of Harbor Road.

Edward Crowley Jr. reported that the Harbor Management Commission might be looking to make improvements at Ye Olde Yacht Yard and any oystering program would have an extensive permitting process. He will gather further information about the viability and possibility of oyster growth programs in the Perry Green and Ye Olde Yacht Yard areas.

Kristen Frank of DA/BA reported concerns of lead in the upper Southport Harbor area due to Exide pollution. There has been no study of lead levels between the dam and the yacht club in at least 10 years. She suggested possible closure of that area to all shellfishing as a precaution.

Edward Crowley Jr. suggests closure of that area as a precaution, per DA/BA's concerns.

Gregory Lanute discussed filtering times for clams of fecal bacteria versus heavy metals.

Paul Nelson stated he did not believe there was enough evidence to close the area to shellfishing.

Cathy Raynor-Catropa noted that DA/BA's concerns are likely well-founded and that there is a history of positive cooperation between DA/BA and the Shellfish Commission.

Cathy Raynor-Catropa *moved*, David Thornton *seconded* close the northern half of Southport Harbor to all shellfishing until the Shellfish Commission receives further information from DA/BA. Vote cast with five in favor, Paul Nelson against.

IV. INFORMATIONAL

- A. 2010-2011 Budget Expenditure Status – Informational
- B. Shellfish Fund Balance – Informational
- C. License Permits issued through November 30, 2010 – Informational
- D. The Dredge - Volume 4, Fall 2010 – Informational
- E. 6th Annual Gathering of Shellfish Commissions, January 8, 2011 – Informational
- F. City of Norwalk Shellfish Commission Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2010 – Informational
- G. Town of Fairfield Harbor Management Commission Meeting Draft Minutes of November 16, 2010 – Informational
- H. Phone calls for status of open or closed for November 2010 – Informational
- I. CT DA/BA Notice of Policy re: Importation of Shellfish – 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, Cathy Raynor-Catropa seconded to adjourn at 8:22 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Monelli