

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – May 8, 2013**

The Shellfish Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a regular meeting on May 8, 2013 at 7:30 PM in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Fairfield Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sanford J. Wakeman, Chairman; Robert Bilek, Vice-Chairman; Sally Harold; Richard Ferrari; Paul Nelson; Cathy Raynor-Catropa

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Thornton, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Thomas J. Steinke, Conservation Director

CALL TO ORDER: Sanford J. Wakeman, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM

I. BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2013

Robert Bilek *moved*, Paul Nelson *seconded* to accept the minutes of April 10, 2013.
Motion passed unanimously.

B. Committee Reports

1. *Clam Relay/Planting:* Bilek, Thornton – Robert Bilek reported that since water temperatures have reached 50 degrees, a clam relay is scheduled for May 13, 14, and 15 if necessary. Backup dates of May 28 and 29 are included in the permit. Jim Salce's Bed 439 will be the source and the claims will be transferred to Recreational Area A from his shellfish boat with shellfish commissioners onboard. DA/BA will have the permit in sufficient time. Robert Bilek requested buoys from the Conservation Department and Sanford J. Wakeman discussed how Jim Salce will be paid.

Robert Bilek stated that the agreement with Jim Salce is to harvest a total of 76 bags of hard clams, The total anticipated count is about 21,000 clams of various sizes, including Little Necks, Top Necks and Cherry Stones. The price is based on the same dock prices for each size agreed to last October, and amounts to about \$2,600. This includes a 10% discount, and is less than the authorized purchase amount of "under \$3,000" approved by the Commission last fall. The actual harvest and therefore the price may vary slightly.

2. *Water and Habitat Quality:* Bilek, Wakeman, Harold, Raynor-Catropa – Robert Bilek reported that shellfish beds are open and that the addendum to the MOU is still in process. The commissioners discussed issues experienced with the shellfishing status message and telephone recording system.

3. *Permits and Access*: Thornton – No report presented this evening
4. *Commercial Shellfish Regulations*: Wakeman, Harold – No report presented this evening
5. *Oyster Bed Development*: Thornton, Harold – No report presented this evening

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Remediation of the Mill River Estuary associated with the former Exide Battery Site, 2190 Post Road, Fairfield, CT

Thomas J. Steinke reported that he sent out a schedule for meetings with the facilitator on the project, Cynthia Cook. The commissioners and Thomas J. Steinke discussed logistics and attendance at the meetings, with Thomas J. Steinke recommending that designated commissioners attend as many as possible. He noted that these meetings are restricted to designated parties, not the public.

B. Shellfish Commission Management Plan

Sanford J. Wakeman appointed a committee, consisting of Richard Ferrari, Sally Harold and Paul Nelson, to review the Shellfish Management Plan. Paul Nelson will coordinate a meeting room and schedule.

C. Shellfish Maps - Natural Beds and State DA/BA Commercial Beds

Thomas J. Steinke reviewed shellfish bed maps with the commissioners.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mill River Wetland Committee 2013 Annual Funding Appeal

The commissioners briefly discussed whether to make contributions as individuals or as commission. Thomas J. Steinke advised the commissioners to ascertain the Board of Finance's policy as to donations before making one. Robert Bilek said he did not believe the commission should authorize official funds to the program, despite its value, as it is not directly related to shellfish. Cathy Raynor-Catropa advocated judicious use of funds in order to conserve money to support the recreational shellfish program.

B. State of CT DEEP Notice of Intent to Adopt Connecticut Water Quality Standards Regulations and hold a Public Hearing

Thomas J. Steinke reviewed the procedure of the proposed regulations and noted that the DEEP incorporated a previous Shellfish Commission recommendation to include sewage outfall areas in the scope of the regulations. Sanford J. Wakeman related that new management will be coming to the Bridgeport West Side Sewer Plant.

IV. INFORMATIONAL

Robert Bilek reviewed the counts of shellfish to be used in the relay and noted that Recreational Bed A must be closed for 3 days following the relay to allow the clams to dig in.

Robert Bilek requested a break down of the subaccount codes for the Shellfish Fund balance.

Thomas J. Steinke noted that the Shellfish Commission's 2013-2014 budget has passed.

The commissioners discussed conducting a shellfishing clinic and will revisit the idea after the relay is complete. They also discussed methods of publicity. Richard Ferrari will coordinate the clinic.

V. OTHER

None

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Sally Harold *moved*, Cathy Raynor-Catropa *seconded* to adjourn at 8:20 PM. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Monelli