

## Shellfish Meeting - Feb 7, 2017 - Police Station Community Room

Meeting Called to order at 7:09pm by Chairman Church followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**Present:** Wayne Church, Al Walker, Abby Roccapriore, Kim Colegrove, Josh Snow (by phone)

**Guests:** Mike Gilman, George Harris and Spencer Hull all from Indian River Shellfish (IRS), Kristine Capsick from Madison Shellfish Commission

Church informed the commission that per town hall, members were now allowed to attend meetings and vote by phone.

Mike Gilman farm share report: June-July will have largest oysters, will sell to distributor, funds returned to town instead of farm share selling to citizens. Went over the status of the farm share growing areas. Will report back to us in the Spring re: status of growing areas, do any need to be moved to avoid silt. Funds remain to purchase 75-80 yards of shell

George Harris, Spencer Hull arrived at 7:16

Church questioned IRS about where farm share oysters would be sold. At the BoS finance meeting, First Selectman Farmer stated that IRS would be selling farm share oysters to Clinton citizens through Lobster Landing. Whereas Gilman says oysters will be sold through distributors. Lobster Landing has yet to be approached about participation in the farm share program.

Kristine Capsick arrived 7:21

Capsick pointed out that the Shellfish page on the town website lists our meeting start time as 7:30pm, Commission needs to update that to 7pm for 2017. Meetings were running longer and longer so we had to move the time up to 7pm.

Church asked Gilman to review the latest version of the Hammo river proposal. Agreement is needed between Madison and Clinton Commissions before it can go to Clinton's BoS for approval. Madison has offered to pay for all shell used to prep beds in the Hammo. Church asked IRS to provide an estimate of what IRS expenses would be to prep Clinton beds. This figure would be considered when trying to assess a licensing fee for the Clinton beds, and would potentially be used to offset those fees. Gilman and Harris explained the effort involved in prepping the bottom of the river to receive seed oysters, but Gilman was adamant against providing cost estimates to the Commission. He felt that was too invasive into IRS business dealings. Gilman feels a license fee would make sure the Town was compensated for use of the Hammo river beds on Clinton's side, and would be far easier than him trying to account for every expense involved in managing the Hammo river project.

Church explained that he was contacted about the Hammo river project by Don Gessick with Harbor Management. Gessick asked why we were not charging to license the areas IRS will work.

Gilman offered to pay Clinton to license 5.8 acres, rounded up to 6 acres, at \$25/yr/acre for first two years.

If the Commission decides that the Town needs to be compensated for the use of the river, the existing proposal needs to have leasing wording added.

Executive session needed to discuss leasing options. Before guests departed, Gilman asked the Commission to discuss setting limits on annual licensing fee increases. He feels the last increase was too drastic.

All guests departed.

8:00pm Colegrove motioned to enter executive session, seconded by Roccapriore, AIF

8:56pm Colegrove motioned to end executive session, seconded by Roccapriore, AIF

Regarding license fee increases. Church explained to the newer Commission members that the initial licensing fees to IRS were reduced to assist a fledgling business get off the ground. At renewal, these fees were brought back up to their usual rate as it was felt IRS was an established business by that point.

The Commission is grateful to IRS for helping to revive the shellfishing industry in Clinton waters. IRS is benefitting from the \$77,000 portion of the Unilever grant for the farm share program, and will now be benefitting from Madison supplying them with thousands of dollars worth of free shell for IRS to use on their beds in the Hammo. Commission members are concerned the Town may feel IRS is getting favorable treatment and too much benefit from the Unilever settlements to both Clinton and Madison. The Commission had hoped to be able to show the Town an estimate of the costs IRS would bear in preparing the beds. Absent this cost data, the Commission felt a higher than normal licensing fee would be in order.

Motion by Walker, offer a license fee for the 6 acres in the Hammo at \$750/yr for 2 yrs no gear allowed in the river. Text in the license template referring to reseeding will be removed.

Motion seconded by Roccdapriore, NFD, AIF

Commission asked Wayne to modify the license

Motion by Roccapriore to table the goals portion of the agenda, 2nd by Colegrove, NFD, AIF

Feb 28 is the BoF meeting, all commission members should make an effort to attend.

Church said Pete Neff suggested DPW could build the CSC upweller and the barn. Neff felt upweller would cost less if built by DPW. Let's pursue.

Annual meeting of CT Shellfish Commissions. All agreed it was inspiring to learn what other town recreational shellfishing programs were like. Renewed our desire to keep pushing for recreational areas to be reinstated in Clinton waters. Church learned that DA/BA might consider recreational approved for eastern end of Shore Rd.

**New Business:**

10 yr assessment by the State possible in 2017. Kristen may come to March mtg to discuss.

Oversight of Unilever farm share program. Commission members should review Unilever proposal to discuss in March.

Roccapriore submitted an article to Wracklines re the Marine Science Day by Dana Skidmore, it's the 10th year of the Marine Science Day. Roccapriore also reached out to Kristen Bellantuono:

No Child Left Inside® Coordinator

Project Learning Tree Co-Coordinator

Connecticut State Parks & Public Outreach

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

... to see if she, Tessa, Abby and Dana could meet to discuss potential joint ventures.

Ms. Castle, teacher, will be contacted, ask if interested in analyzing our water quality data.

**Expenses:**

Walker

- domain names clintonshellfish.com and .org for two years 2016 and 17 - \$48.00

- water sample delivery to Milford lab

- meeting entrance fee for 4 commission members - \$100

- total due - \$186.88

Motion to approve Snow, 2nd Colegrove, NFD, AIF

Roccapriore

- mileage to CT Shellfish Commissions joint meeting at the Sound School - \$23.54

Motion to approve Snow, 2nd Colegrove, NFD, AIF

9:41pm - Motion to adjourn Snow, 2nd Roccapriore, AIF

Respectfully submitted,

AI Walker

