



TOWN OF MADISON
MADISON SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING November 18, 2021 Madison Town Campus – Room A – 7:30 p.m

The regular meeting of the Madison Shellfish Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Nikituk, Eric Thal, Lori Walz, Dave Newton, Perry Rianhard, Kevin Clark. Absent was Ted Raff, Also present was Mike Gilman of Indian River Shellfishing.

Chairman's Report – Steve Nikituk

1. Bills and Correspondence/Newspaper- Bills: none. Correspondence: Dave said there was an article in the Shoreline Times stating the Charter Revision cutting non-State mandated commissions. Bills: Perry \$579.53 for winterizing the Grady White.
2. Liaison with Clinton Shellfish Commission– –no report
3. Liaison with Guilford – –no report. Kevin said they have their Zoom meetings on their website.
4. 2022 Activities: a) DHHS Docker/Amenta students involvement with MSC- no report. b) Steve said that Tim Visel did a survey were the students usually do in Fence Creek (see next page)
- 5 Surf Clams –no report.
6. Clam Digs 2022 –Steve said thinking of 2 clamdigs next year.
7. Meig Walz's leases –(follow up from October meeting public hearing). Motion by Kevin Clark, and seconded by Dave Newton to approve Meig Walz's 3 leases pending the addition of time frame for accessing the West Wharf lease area. This passed unanimously.

Commissioners' Reports – Kevin Clark

1. Treasurer's Report – no report
2. Commercial Leases – Sent leases to Doug Schepack and Mike Gilman. He said that Indian River Shellfishing has been unable to use their 88 acres of Hammonasset over the last year; they were only able to use 2 of those acres due to storms and loss of oysters. Motion by Dave Newton and seconded by Kevin Clark to keep \$10 for 2 years being the balance of this lease. This passed unanimously. Kevin said Guilford Shellfish Commission owes us a check for East River.
3. Manage Shellfish License, Regulations and Maps – Kevin said Captain Morgan will send a check for the licenses he has sold.

Commissioners' Reports – Perry Rianhard

1. Grady Status— Grady White has been winterized is now at Ridge Road.
2. Seaview Beach Steamer Beds – no report
3. Manage weekend closings due to rainfall and rain gauge. – no report but mentioned he was getting emails from Milford – although Dave, Ted, and Steve are getting them.

Commissioners' Report – Meig Walz

1. Update Madison Shellfish Commission Shellfish Plan-- Meig said she read the plan. Dave said that Tessa Getchiss at UCONN Connecticut Aquaculture Extension Program is looking for regulations.
2. Oyster Restoration Hammonasset River/Clinton Harbor—no report.

Commissioners' Reports –Dave Newton

1. Meat & Water testing—Dave said meat testing will have to wait until the weather gets warmer.
2. Liaison with Bureau of Aquaculture – Dave said he spoke to Alyssa --- the only area not up to date for testing is Area C and it needs testing to open and get up to date. He added that he will ask Alyssa if he can have a substitute for doing the testings.

Commissioners' Reports –Eric Thal

1. Updated MSC Plan – no report
2. Kelp – no report

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Respectfully submitted: Abigail White

From: "VISEL, TIM" <TIM.VISEL@new-haven.k12.ct.us>
Date: November 14, 2021 at 4:22:22 PM EST
To: Stephen Nikituk <stnikituk@comcast.net>
Subject: Clam Bed Survey Today Nov 14

Stopped at the clam bar east of Fence Creek this afternoon at 1.15- about dead low tide. Water temp was 51 degrees. The clam bar isn't really a clam bar anymore, it now has a huge blue mussel set that has gathered sand over the clams. I used a new hand held garden tool which easily peeled off the mussels and below about four inches down were large number of dead soft shells. This tool has a hoe on one side and three prongs, on the other- the prongs made digging easy and in five attempts I did find at least one -one inch or so live clam. In several patches in which the mussels were gone (wash out)and underneath lay exposed many dead soft shells all about 2 to 3 inches. One 12 by 12 inch patch held 19 adult clams all dead but shells still paired. From the appearance of the dead shells I estimate the clam mortality happened four to six years ago. Perhaps some past surveys may have mentioned this?

It was evident that mussels had largely suffocated the clam bed as large areas effectively formed a matt of small mussels which looked to be about one half inch -perhaps a July set. No mature mussels were observed just the set. This mussel matt was at times three to four inches deep.

Now about the oysters, the cobbles and larger stones showed at least three massive oyster sets - some of the larger stones were completely covered. This past set was thick (about the size of a nickel) but thousands of two-inch oysters (one year old?) and dozens of nearly 3 inch oysters. were observed. In some areas oysters had set on small stones creating blankets of small oysters to the west and east of the cobble bar. These were the heaviest sets of oysters I have ever seen in this area- with the knowledge that my last look here was in 2010.

Your feeling about few soft shells was absolutely -correct-

Hope this report is of interest

Tim