

**GUILFORD SHELLFISH COMMISSION
MINUTES
March 8, 2017
7:30 P.M.**

Town Hall, second floor, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Commissioners: Vice Chair Stephen Goldschmidt, Ed Lombard, Eric Mull, John Sieviec,
Anthony DeLucia (arrive 8:05), John Hall

Absent: Chair Alison Varian

Wardens: Allyn Brown, Fred Hill

Commercial: Chris Walston, C.W. Shellfish
Bud Harris, LMH Charters
Stephen Schaefer, Stella Mar Shellfish (formerly Hemlock)

Guests: Keith Harvey, potential GSC member

At 7:34 pm Vice Chair Stephen Goldschmidt called to order the regular meeting.

1. Public Forum

There were no comments.

2. Minutes of February 8, 2017 meeting

Upon review,

Motion: John Sieviec moved to approve the February 8, 2017 minutes, seconded by John Hall.

Vote: Carried - John Hall, Ed Lombard, Eric Mull, John Sieviec

3. Commercial Activity and Licenses - Stephen Goldschmidt

Stephen Goldschmidt reported :

- He had contacted Kim Granbery who had sent a letter last month to GSC proposing to create a commercial lot on a 2/10 acre parcel in Hoadley Creek, north and east of Chris Walston's commercial Lots.
- Stephen had emailed coordinates to commissioners. Mr. Granbery was invited to attend today's meeting but was unavailable. He stated he would attend the April meeting

Discussion again reviewed charts of the proposed area. It was decided to defer further review to the April meeting when Mr. Granbery could be present.

Stella Mar Shellfish LLC owner Stephen Schaefer submitted the "Connecticut Grown" magazine which had an article and photos of his operations along the shoreline.

4. Bills and Correspondence

Treasurer Eric Mull reported :

Bills

Warden Fred Hill	\$ 160.00
Warden Allyn Brown	\$ 360.00
Warden Peter Beauvais	\$ 200.00
Judy Anderson Castellano, Recording Secretary	\$ 178.50 (Jan/Feb)
Brown's Boatyard - boat fuel	\$ 42.49
Town Marina - GSC boat slip rental	<u>\$1,464.00</u>
Total :	\$2,404.99

Motion: Stephen Goldschmidt moved to approve payment of the bills, seconded by John Sieviec.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Correspondence

- Letter from Board of Selectmen reappointing John Sieviec as GSC commissioner for the term February 10, 2017 to February 28, 2021.
- Letter from Board of Selectmen reappointing Anthony DeLucia as GSC commissioner for the term February 10, 2017 to February 28, 2021.
- Email letter from Tessa Getchis, UCONN Sea Grant office, that due to the potential loss of federal funding commissions are requested to send letters to legislators, state and federal departments to support retaining federal funds to allow these vital economic and environmental programs to continue.

Stephen Goldschmidt will compose and send support letters.

5. Wardens' Report

Warden Allyn Brown reported that due to some warmer weather there has been a slight increase in recreational shellfishing. He had found a nonresident woman and young daughter illegally shellfishing at Chaffinch Island in Brown's Boatyard channel. The woman said she was unaware of the requirement to obtain a license or that the area was closed. Allyn advised her that she had violations of undersized clams, over the catch limit, and informed her on regulations. He sold her two nonresident licenses and took her clams.

Warden Fred Hill reported that he had sold two resident licenses. He had seen 27 shellfishers throughout Shell Beach, Chaffinch Island, Tuttle's Point. As Tuttle's Point has limited or no parking lots, he had received permission from property owners to park and gain patrol access. He had found some shellfishers in Chris Walston's commercial lot and told them to relocate to another recreational site.

At this point, Bud Harris, LMH Charters advised that "Ducks Unlimited" is working with the DEEP at Great Harbor and flying drones to collect information on the duck population, which is used to show positive and negative impacts to habitat and other species, as well as, what is the human impact.

Bud and Chris Walston (C.W.Shellfish) have concerns regarding the impact to their shellfish grounds if a proposed dam is approved at the Town Dock sluice. The tide gate water flow will be changed.

Discussion was held on the proposed dam and on the Rte 146 bridge project at the crabbing area. It was decided that more information will be obtained from Town officials to respond to these concerns.

6. Subcommittees

A. Recreation – Stephen Goldschmidt

Stephen Goldschmidt reported that a total of 72 recreational licenses were sold in February. Capt. Morgan Bait Shop had sold 22 of the 72. Sales for December/January had been \$3,456.

B. Water Sampling – Ed Lombard / John Hall / Stephen Goldschmidt

Ed Lombard reported :

- The GSC use of the fire boat has been disrupted by weather conditions and the Federal Food and Drug Administration using the boat for testing.
- GSC will sample Indian Cove for February tests.
- The Bur. of Aquaculture staff continues to decrease due to loss of funding. If water is not tested, then recreational areas may be closed.

C. Boat - John Hall / Alison Varian

John Hall reported :

- The prop will be purchased and installed. -
- He and Ed Lombard will repair the boat trailer.
- East River Marina will be contacted to remove the boat from winter storage.
- John Sieviec, Stephen Goldschmidt, Wardens Hill and Beauvais will launch the boat by April 1.
- The pilot seat cover ordered last month is still not in. John Hall will contact the supplier again.

D. Stocking – Eric Mull/Anthony DeLucia/Alison Varian/John Hall

Discussion was held on stocking clams and oysters this spring :

- Chris Walston will have clams by May.
- Since Stephen Schaefer harvest oysters, he offered 75 bushel of clams.
- Reviewed areas to be stocked. Commissioners may do an observation walk on April 3.

Motion: John Hall moved to purchase 75 bushels of clams from Stella Mar Shellfish at \$10 per bushel, seconded by Tony DeLucia.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Stephen Goldschmidt will contact Dolan Brothers Shellfish to schedule stocking of about 100 bags of oysters. Timing and water temperature is critical to all shellfish survival. Ed Lombard will assist in coordinating the schedule.

E. Finance - Eric Mull

Treasurer Eric Mull reported that the Town Finance Dept. February Operating Report showed a good status. He will email the report to commissioners. Revenue will be higher than last year.

F. Special Projects – Eric Mull / John Hall

Discussion reviewed chart locations of the Guilford Yacht Club's current proposed dredging project, which is to mitigate erosion in the West River at the Chaffinch Island area leading to their facility. Concerns include :

- Stephen Goldschmidt and Chris Walston, C.W. Shellfish, advised that this plan could change the water quality and flow in this mixed water zone, and has the potential to negatively impact Chris' Lot 35 (16.44719 acres) and Chaffinch Island recreational area.
- GSC has recreational areas in this section of the West River.
- Chris would like these issues resolved before the proposal continues through the Town hearing process.
- The river is conditionally restricted relay. There are water sampling stations along this area.
- It was reported by Chris Walston that the Bur. of Aquaculture, David Carey, opposes this project which would include long berms of sediment. The first berm bags of dredging materials will sink and the next would be layered on top. Environmental impact studies must be conducted.

Additional information will be obtained and further discussion will take place at the April GSC meeting.

G. Signs - Anthony DeLucia

Tony DeLucia reported that the open/closed signs are up to date and in good condition. Ed Lombard had assisted Tony this past month. Warden Brown will assist at Great Harbor this month.

H. Website

Ed Lombard continues to update the GSC website.

7. Updates**A. Land Acquisition Commission (LAC)**

Stephen Goldschmidt advised that LAC is working with Town Environmental Planner Kevin Magee to fulfill the Town Plan of Conservation and Development mandate to classify the 208 Town properties.

B. Sea Grant Advisory Board (SGAB)

Stephen Goldschmidt reported that Sea Grant Advisory Board is reviewing their budget and the CT Shellfish Initiative.

C. Harbor Management Commission (HMC)

Chair Varian was unable to be present to report.

8. Old Business

A. Review of Warden Guidelines Meeting

John Hall advised that he will email commissioners and wardens a draft of the current "Warden Guidelines" to review. Discussion will take place at the April meeting.

9. New Business

A. Requests for Potential Commercial Lots

Discussion reviewed Chris Walston's interest in a commercial lot near Grass Island. Chris is testing his equipment at this time to determine its viability in this area.

B. Sea Grant Funding Support

Discussed under "Correspondence".

10. Adjournment

Motion: At 8:29 pm, Eric Mull moved to adjourn, seconded by John Sieviac.

Vote: Carried - Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Anderson Castellano
Recording Secretary