

Town of Barnstable
Shellfish Committee
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Shellfish Committee Minutes of the Meeting

DATE: February 12, 2020

TIME: 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

LOCATION: Barnstable Adult Community Center, 825 Falmouth Road, Hyannis MA

Shellfish Committee Members present: Chairman: Stuart Rapp, Jacob Angelo, Patricia Farinha, Bill Shumway, Al Suprenant and Tyler Hagenstein

Shellfish Committee Members absent: Robert Lancaster, Paul Caruso

General Public present: Dave Aittaniemi, Jason French, John Nawoichik, Jill Nawoichik, Joe Weinberg, Dan Czupryna, William Korkuch and Mark Begley, Richard Haskell

Town Council Liaison present: Kristine Clark

Town Staff present: Devon Harrington, Natural Resource Officer/Aquaculture Specialist, Tom Marcotti, Shellfish Biologist and Lisa Henderson, Clerk of the Board

Stuart Rapp chaired the February 12, 2020 meeting of the Shellfish Committee. Stuart Rapp took a roll call of members present at the meeting. Stuart Rapp read a notice at the beginning of the meeting:

NOTICE OF RECORDING "Please note that tonight's meeting is recorded and broadcast on Channel 18 and, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, s. 20, I must inquire whether anyone is taping this meeting and to please make their presence known."

1. Meeting Minutes:

The Shellfish Committee unanimously voted to approve a Motion made by Bill Shumway and seconded by Patricia Farinha to approve the Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2020 as presented.

2. Chairman's Comments: Congratulations to Tyler Hagenstein on his appointment to the Town of Barnstable Shellfish Committee.

3. Natural Resources Report:

Tom Marcotti presented an update on the shellfish activities:

The Division of Marine Fisheries re-examined the waters of Mills River/Princes Cove (SC23.1). Due to the excellent water test results, the Division has determined that the area now meets the established criteria for the harvest of shellfish and will change the seasonal status to “OPEN TO SHELLFISHING”. The lower part of Cotuit Bay known as Pirates Cove will close May 1st.

May through June we will be doing relays in the Centerville River finishing by June 15th with the relays remaining in East Bay. DMF requires three months of natural depuration. If we complete the relays by June 15th we can open the equinox of the fall which is around September 20th (*East Bay is open November 1 – May 1 annually, pending DMF approval*). We are budgeting roughly \$10k at \$40 per bushel with 250 bushels. We will schedule 6 to 7 days for this. The sale of recreational shellfish permits in 2019 has increased. The new law pertaining to veterans and shellfishing has had a positive impact on the sale of non-resident permits.

An inquiry by the Committee on how many oysters are harvested was requested for the next and subsequent meetings.

4. Status of pending NOI pier applications before the Conservation Commission:

Applicant: Vahan & Rosemary Martirosian, Trustees
Project Location: 25 Seaview Avenue
Osterville, MA 02655
Map 162 & parcel 026-001
Proposed Project: To repair and improve the existing stone revetment and to nourish the beach.

Application was discussed. The Committee has no concerns. No vote taken.

Applicant: Liles Investment Partners, LLC
Project Location: 40 & 50 Clamshell Point Lane, Cotuit, MA 02635
Map 006 & parcel 005 & 006
Proposed Project: To construct and maintain a bulkhead.

Application was discussed. Committee has concerns about the construction methodology. How will this be constructed without interfering with the salt marsh? The Committee would like to attend the Conservation Committee meeting and or send a letter detailing their concerns with this project. Possibly contact the engineer for more information on his methodology.

5. Aquaculture Presentation by Devon Harrington –Natural Resource Officer/Aquaculture Specialist:

Devon gave an update on the Aquaculture industry within the Town. Devon read regulation# 407-63 pertaining to Aquaculture within the Town.

The Natural Resource Office encouraged a clean-up month in September and October 2019. Many aquaculturists who participated in the clean-up claimed they did not find an overwhelming amount of derelict gear. High intensity storms increase the amount of derelict gear. The Great Marsh, west of the aquaculture zone, and the channel within the aquaculture zone remain high priority areas to encourage clean up as well as the channel within the aquaculture zone. Gear collected was returned to owners if tagged, salvaged, recycled or thrown away. Devon is looking into a program to better assist growers with a program called “Fishing for Energy”. It is a program that allows unusable gear to be recycled rather than thrown away.

East Coast Growers Association puts out Best Management Practices for the East Coast shellfish industry from ME to FL. They say to pick up loose gear as soon as possible, partner with other farmers and recycle companies , reuse gear whenever possible, dispose of un-useable gear, participate in community beach clean ups and keep gear neat and orderly.

Devon will be looking into speaking with the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Associates regarding tagging compliance in Massachusetts and surrounding towns for better tagging practices.

Winter grant inspections are ongoing. They will continue into the spring in order to see the bulk gear come back onto the grants with all the proper tags. With such a diversity of tags used we ask growers to pay attention that their tags are legible.

Our next clean up month will most likely be in the month of March. We will also be working with Channel 18 to better educate the public on whom to contact should they find derelict gear. It was recommended by aquaculturist Begely to have a designated drop off location for lost and found derelict gear. Devon will inquire on various options. Jacob Angelo brought up a problem area of derelict gear collecting in Spring Creek. Devon recommended pictures taken with the GPS location be sent to her so she can research and try to find the accountable party.

6. Old Business: None.

7. Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

Liaison Kristine Clark said the structure of the Committee is out of compliance as laid out by Town Council. She is working with the Chair of the Appointment Committee to bring our committee into compliance as far as the number recreation license holder members, professionally trained shell fishermen and the regulatory service etc.

The Shellfish Committee unanimously voted to approve a Motion made by Jacob Angelo and seconded by Bill Shumway to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted: Lisa Henderson – Clerk of the Board