



Town of Barnstable

Shellfish Committee

1189 Phinneys Lane, Centerville MA 02632



SHELLFISH COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATE: February 8, 2023 TIME: 6:00-8:00 PM

Shellfish Committee Members present: Stuart Rapp, Bill Cherepon, Douglas Crook, Al Surprenant, Patricia Farinha

Shellfish Committee Members absent: Robert Lancaster, Jake Angelo, Tyler Hagenstein

General Public present: Dave Ryan, Mark Begley, Chloe Starr, Paul Hendricks

Town Council Liaison present: Paul Cusack

Town Staff present: Amy Croteau, Senior Natural Resource Officer/Shellfish Constable; Alicia Lauzon, MEA Administrative Assistant

Stuart Rapp called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, as February 8, 2023 meeting of the Shellfish Committee. Stuart 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."

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Approve Meeting Minutes: Patricia Farinha moved to approve the January 11, 2023 meeting minutes and Al Surprenant seconded. There was a unanimous vote in favor of approving minutes as written.

2. Chairman's Comments: None

3. Natural Resources Report / Correspondence:

Constable Croteau stated that each month she will continue to give year to date permit numbers until there is a year's worth of numbers with the change of expiration date to compare to. So far there have been 1,144 total permits sold since the beginning of year.

1. Shellfish Growing Area Updates

Mills River and Prince Cove are to open effective February 15 pending water quality.

2. Change- removal of commercial closure at Bay Street, Osterville

The commercial closure within Bay Street will be removed effective February 15. Constable Croteau anticipates it will be open to everyone come November due to it not being another big year for oysters over at Bay Street. It will continue to be used as a relay area for quahogs.

4. **New Business:** None

5. **Upcoming (and Old) Renewal & Transfer Hearings:**

1. Hearing for the renewal of aquaculture licensed siteng029 in Barnstable Harbor for Mark Begley, 20 High Street, West Barnstable, MA 02668 for a period of 10 years. Public hearing to be held via Zoom, 02/28/2023 at 9:00AM via Zoom

Presented by Mark Begley, he has had a grant since 1999 and grows mostly oysters. Mr. Begley grows over 90% oysters and occasionally butter clams, quahogs and steamers. There are no issues from the Natural Resource department. Patricia motioned to recommend the renewal and Bill seconded. There was a unanimous vote in favor.

6. **Upcoming (and old) Proposed Coastal Projects:** None

7. **Old Business:**

1. Status of the repair of Scudder Lane Town Landing

There are no updates at this time as no meeting has been scheduled yet. A second public meeting is said to happen at the end of winter or early spring but no date has been set yet.

2. Corporate Leasing of Aquaculture Licenses- originally brought to Committee by Al Surprenant continued discussion

Al Surprenant handed out suggested regulation changes, proposed by Dave Ryan and himself, which were made to address some of the concerns brought to attention at the previous meetings. A discussion followed about the suggested changes. It was brought up that the annual renewal fee is a statutory fee and would need a home rule petition to change it as proposed. Therefore, local legislators would need to ask for an exception, as the annual fee is written in the Massachusetts General Laws. Stuart Rapp proposed potentially making the suggested annual fee a transfer fee instead. No in depth conversation has been had with the Legal Department about the suggested regulation changes at this time; however Town Council Liaison Paul Cusack has had conversation with town leadership about what is going on in order to give them a heads up. There are concerns of a company's potential to being an entity in perpetuity and not allowing another company to grow due to the proposed regulation changes and the fact that acreage availability on both the North and South side are essentially maxed out. Further discussion needed was proposed and the potential for another subcommittee to be created was discussed, with the suggested regulation changes being put on the town website, as well as to all growers and everyone on the waitlist so they can participate in the discussion. This will remain on the agenda for next month's meeting.

8. **Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:** None

The Shellfish Committee unanimously voted to approve a motion made by Patricia and seconded by Bill at 6:53 PM to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted: Alicia Lauzon – MEA administrative assistant