

Shellfish Committee Minutes of the Meeting

DATE: July 18, 2012
TIME: 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.
LOCATION: MEAD Building

Shellfish Committee Members present:

Stuart Rapp, Gerard Ganey, Matt Ostrowski, Andre Sampou, Linda Romano

General Public present:

Lenny Clark

Town Council Liaison:

June Daley

Town Staff present:

Tom Marcotti

Chairman's Report:

Stuart Rapp chaired the July 18th, 2012 meeting of the Shellfish Committee.

The Shellfish Committee adopted the minutes of the June 20th, 2012 meeting of the Shellfish Committee.

Stuart welcomed new Shellfish Committee member Linda Romano to the Shellfish Committee.

Natural Resources Report

Tom Marcotti reviewed the current progress of Town shellfish propagation projects and shellfish area closure status.

Old Business

Further discussion and possible vote regarding the development of a summer shellfishery program was forwarded to the August 2012 meeting of the Shellfish Committee.

Stuart and the Shellfish Committee continued their discussion from previous committee meetings about the deleterious effects of piers, and the use of piers, on the shellfish resources / habitat throughout the Town. The Shellfish Committee discussed the topic of orders of conditions for piers as delineated by the Conservation Commission to protect shellfish resources and habitat.

New Business

Tom Marcotti introduced a proposal by Bill Clark, Director of the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension, to the Shellfish Committee as included below (next page):

The Shellfish Committee briefly discussed the funding aspects of Bill Clark's proposal and the economics of the Aquacultural Research Corporation property and shellfish hatchery facilities. The Shellfish Committee agreed to have Bill Clark present his proposal at the committee's August 15, 2012 meeting for discussion.

Tom Marcotti introduced the proposed renewal application for Conrad Geyser's shellfish aquaculture license in Nantucket Sound. The Shellfish Committee will review C. Geyser's application at their August 15, 2012 meeting.



CAPE COD COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Deeds and Probate Building
 3195 Main Street - PO Box 367
 Barnstable, MA 02630-0367
 (508) 375-0690 tel - (508) 362-4518 fax
www.capecodextension.org

To: Barnstable County Shellfish Advisory Members

From: William Clark, Extension Director

Date: February 28, 2012

Subject: Aquaculture Research Corporation

As you may know, I have been working with the owners of ARC to acquire the facility by the County to ensure the production of local shellfish seed into the future. The County Commissioners are willing to acquire ARC and then lease the property to the private sector to operate the hatchery. The ARC owners are not in a position to borrow the necessary funds to rebuild their aging hatchery and, without the needed repairs, the hatchery could stop production within the next few years. In that scenario, it is possible and quite likely that ARC could be purchased by an individual not interested in continuing the shellfish hatchery.

I have met on numerous occasions with local, county, state and federal officials to locate grant funds for the purchase of ARC. Although we are waiting to hear from a couple of funding sources I would like to explore other funding opportunities. One possible funding source could come from a dedicated fee charged to shellfish permit holders. The idea would be to charge an additional \$10.00 for every recreational license sold and a fee to be determined for every commercial license (maybe \$50.00). Based on a survey we conducted a few years ago, there are about 17,000 recreational permits and 1,100 commercial permits sold annually throughout the County. If these numbers are correct, we could generate over \$170,000 per year to pay off the loan borrowed to purchase ARC. To do this, I believe special legislation would have to be filed by our state senate and representatives. They have been very supportive and I would anticipate full cooperation with the legislation if the towns are supportive.

To move forward, please give me your thoughts on this idea as soon as possible. For this to work, each town manager and selectman will have to know how important ARC is to the future of the shellfish industry on the Cape. This fee may seem to be a new tax to some people but it's actually a user fee which only affects individuals who are in some way participating in shellfishing. Without ARC producing local seed, both recreational and commercial shellfishing will not exist as it is today.

When you respond, please include the most recent (2011) information on the number of recreational and commercial permits in your town. Also, please let me know if you are willing to work with me on a committee to pursue this idea further. Thanks.

