



Town of Barnstable
Marine and Environmental Affairs Department
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SHELLFISH COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
DATE: January 12, 2022
TIME: 6:01 P.M. to 6:35 P.M.

This meeting was held via ZOOM

Shellfish Committee Members present: Stuart Rapp, Douglas Crook, Robert Lancaster, Patricia Farinha, Al Surprenant, Jacob Angelo, Tyler Hagenstein

Shellfish Committee Members absent:

General Public present: Connor Rogan

Town Council Liaison present: Kristine Clark

Town Staff present: Amy Croteau, Senior Natural Resource Officer/Shellfish Constable

Stuart Rapp called the meeting to order, as January 12, 2022 meeting of the Shellfish Committee. 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."

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. Approve Meeting Minutes:** November 10, 2021 and December 8, 2021 moved to the next meeting, February 9, 2022.
- 2. Chairman's Comments:** None.
- 3. Natural Resources Report / Correspondence:**

Amy Croteau reported: December Openings - largely happened on time. Waiting on potential opening of Marsons Mills River on February 15, 2022. This could be delayed given water quality has been delaying openings this year.

Commercial Shellfish Lottery Waitlist: \$5.00 due by January 31, 2022 to enter the lottery for placement on the Commercial Shellfish Waitlist. Lottery will be drawn on February 1, 2022 10:00 via ZOOM – **Notice Attached**. This is a closed fishery 47 licenses/year since early 2000s.

Approximately 5-8 Commercial Shellfish License holders use the license to make a living with. Approximately 12-15 /Commercial Shellfish License holders use it seasonally or opportunistically with certain openings. Reaching age limit that will be approaching a turnover.

Rapp – Based on information it is possible that there will not be a license available to be offered to the waitlist.

Requirements for the Commercial Shellfish Permit Renewal is as follows:

1. Must submit Application and \$5.00 deposit that must be received by 4:15PM on January 31st.
2. 90 day after deposit is due (May 2nd) all documents are due (proof of domicile, copy of valid Commonwealth of Massachusetts Commercial Shellfish Permit) as well as payment in full. If the Commercial Shellfish Permit holder wants to fish the month of April, then they have to March 31st to pay in full and provide required documentation to continue in the fishery.

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

- A. Applicant: Gregory J. & Julianne P. Pinto, Trustees; JDC
Ocean Realty Trust
Project Location: 63 Ocean Avenue, Hyannis, MA 02601
Representative: John O’Dea, Sullivan Engineering & Consulting,
Inc.
Proposed Project: to construct and maintain a boardwalk, pier, ramp
and float
Conservation Hearing Date: 01/04/2022 6:30PM via Zoom

This area is way up in the area by Covell’s Beach. This area is not suitable for shellfish. This went to the Conservation Commission on the 4th of January. No Vote was taken.

5. **New Business:** None.

6. **Old Business:**

A. Marstons Mills River Quahog Dry Dragging Pilot Year 2 Discussion

Taken out of order:

Croteau: There was a restriction around the more shallow area in river last year to allow those who wish to access by foot. It wasn't heavily utilized, nor really accessible for dragging. Connor Rogan had suggested that the area around Warren's cove entrance be included in the pilot for year two. This would allow a comparison from the results from one year to two years in this area. The bottom survey looked the same after Natural Resources (NR) Go-Pro'd and didn't feel that there should be any restriction this year.

Opening middle of February. Same area dragged last year is again open this year, and then an additional area will be open this year.

Rapp: Asked how many participated in the Pilot.

Croteau: Collectively six commercial were actively engaged in the pilot

Angelo: Nine total Commercial, three vessels, primary harvest is Quahogs.

Surprenant: Wants to go into North Bay, thinks that North Bay desperately needs it. Doesn't feel it needs to be incremental. Feels that silt needs to be removed and have the bottom worked and that it will be productive in a couple of years. Sees that the water quality has decreased in the past fifty years.

Angelo: Feels that there will be improvement but it needs to be incrementally. We need to finish the Pilot Program and make sure that it is working. Is still seeing natural seed set up high and after a few years we will see in come down lower and be successful?

Croteau: This is an incremental approach. As this issue was discussed in November this area will be worked for three years then see what happens. There is a proliferation of sponge and we don't want to move it to another area. Dragging definitely helps turnover bottom but this is just the starting point. Best management practice is to approach it incrementally so that we don't create new problems in other areas.

After discussion with Department of Marine Fisheries Senior staff, who has now retired, you work an area for three areas then see what happens. Sponge fragmentation can make it spread and grow more. If is not effective here that is fine, we can try another area if this doesn't work.

Rapp: Do we want to involve the County Dredge and remove some of the sponge and weed algae?

Croteau: Anything that relates to formal dredging has extensive permitting and vetting as well as a large cost. We want to use dry dragging to turn over the bottom that we see as degraded and see bottom improvement rotate through the areas of concern. Lack of turnover is not the only reason the Three Bays bottom is in the condition that it is in.

Angelo: My opinion would like to take the lowest part of the bay and clean up and remove the weed. I feel this would improve the habitats that are being choked out. The whole North Bay is this and full of weed.

Croteau: This is an incremental approach. We have this native sponge problem and want to keep it out of West Bay.

7. Special Presentations: None

8. Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

Angelo: Are we proceeding with restructuring the Committee.

Rapp: Yes, working with the Town Attorney and will be on next Agenda.

The Shellfish Committee unanimously voted by roll call to approve a motion by Bob Lancaster and seconded by Al Surprenant to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted: Terri McDonald – Clerk of the Board