



Town of Barnstable
Shellfish Committee
1189 Phinneys Lane, Centerville MA 02632



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

Shellfish Committee Members present: Stuart Rapp, Al Surprenant, Patricia Farinha, Jake Angelo, Robert Lancaster, Gloriann Hurwitz, Paul Hendricks, Bill Cherepon, Douglas Crook

Shellfish Committee Members absent:

General Public present: Mark Begley, Craig Whitcomb, Matt Bunnell, Jen Bunnell, Chris Gargiulo, Jon Marin, Corey Hendricks, Tyler Hagenstein, Timothy Hammel, Dave Ryan, Jill Nawoichik, Jason Alger, Jen Blomquist

Town Council Liaison absent: Paul Cusack

Town Staff present: Devon Nunez, Shellfish Technician; Nina Coleman, Director of Natural Resources/Sandy Neck Beach Park Manager; Alicia Lauzon, MEA Administrative Assistant

Stuart Rapp called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM, as November 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 the Town of Barnstable's Government Access Channel 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: Robert Lancaster moved to approve the October 11, 2023 meeting minutes and Gloriann seconded. There was a unanimous vote in favor of approving minutes as written.

2. Chairman's Comments:

3. Natural Resources Report / Correspondence:

1. Shellfish Growing Area Updates

Shellfish technician Devon Nunez presented the following growing area updates. Mill Creek is waiting on a water quality sample, Scudder Lane is now open, Pirates Cove and Seapuit are conditionally opened areas, and North Bay and Bay St are now open.

2. Small Budget for Ugliers Update

There were 7 growers who chose to participate in the oyster “uglies” purchase program. Each grower sold 2500 pieces for \$0.50 apiece.

4. New Business:

1. Annual Shellfish Propagation Report

Shellfish technician Nunez presented the annual Propagation report as follows:

2023 Shellfish Propagation Report

Quahogs:

⇒ For harvest

Bushels moved: 2023: 413 2022: 347.5

-Bushels moved to rec only: ~76= ~18% Bushels moved to all: ~336= ~81%

-We have opened Bay St to recreational and commercial this year and there has been a lot of activity at this location since.

Nets planted this year:

45 total on SOUTH SIDE

⇒ 20K per net -> Planted at Handy Point, Joes Grant and Bay St next to other nets from 22' and 21'

One 135 ft. net on the NORTH SIDE, planted with field plant stock received from Bill Avery.

⇒ 180K under net -> And this net was planted at Rendezvous

We had remaining stock that was not of size to plant so:

⇒ The remaining stock on the North side is being overwintered at Scudder until we can plant in the spring.

⇒ The remaining quahogs on the South side are being over wintered in our FLUPSY at Prince Cove Marina.

Total Quahogs Planted: 1.1 million Quahogs were planted in this ground this year.

Quahogs Purchased:

- ARC: 2.5 million
- Muscongus: 1 million
- Bill Avery: 180,000 field plant

Received half of our quahogs fairly late– which resulted in us having to overwinter quite a bit.

As for where the seed went for grow out:

-750K NORTH SIDE

-Roughly 100K in boxes at Scudder

-Rest in FLUPSY at Millway

-2.25 million SOUTH SIDE at Prince Cove

Total: 1.1 million planted in the ground (so far) 2023.

- Currently maintaining 246 predator exclusion nets

Oysters Purchased:

North Side

- ~687K went to the Millway Flupsy

⇒ Went for further grow out at Scudder in suitcase bags

- ~112K were put in SEPA bags straight from hatchery

- 600 bags of remote set this year compared to last year where we had 350 bags
 - ⇒ Due to finding remote set being extremely cost effective

South Side

- 200K R2 oysters were grown in FLUPSY and then bagged at Cotuit Town Dock
- Lots of Dermo still present at Bay Street,
 - ⇒ Therefore, NO oysters are being grown there this year. What you will find there now is last year's stock that was put on bottom.
 - ⇒ Now growing the crop near Cotuit Town Dock and we plant these oysters in Bridge Streets Recreational Area.

-It was too expensive to buy larger 1 ¼" stock oysters from Barnstable Harbor Growers, so it will be a smaller harvest at Scudder this year.

- ⇒ We went out to bit but what came back was too expensive and ended up being over what we budgeted.
- ⇒ So that we don't run into that issue again, we ordered more oyster seed from the Hatchery for next year.

***We are continuing harvest at Bay Street to let the area go fallow and we have converted the area to a quahog nursery and grow out site. ***

We had:

- 7 Growers that chose to participate in the Uglies Purchase Program. Each grower selling 2,500 pieces for 50 cents a piece
- ~87K oysters that were less than 25mm were put in suitcase bags at Cotuit Town Dock which were donated from Barnstable Clean Water Coalition – grown in their upweller in Hyannis.
- ~73K “doubles” purchased from Cotuit Oyster Company
 - ⇒ Put in bags at Cotuit Town Dock until spring

Plans for Upcoming Year:

Will be purchasing:

- 650 remote set bags -> Going up 50 more bags from last year
- 3.5 million quahogs for flupsies
- 1 million oyster seed for flupsies

*** Prices for seed have gone up roughly 15% ***

Discussion followed including questions of how many and where each species were planted, and how big the quahogs going under the net were. Al stated that he would like to see more details in the future, including but not limited to, what is our return from what is being planted (how many quahogs and oysters are surviving from what is being planted)?

5. Upcoming (and Old) Renewal & Transfer Hearings: None

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

7. Old Business:

1. Status of the repair of Scudder Lane Town Landing

No current updates.

8. Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

Jen Bunnell presented a handout that was put together with proposed aquaculture regulation changes in regards to having a license in the name of a corporation or LLC. She will provide her email address for anyone with questions or input. Next month, Chairman Rapp will be looking for input from the Natural Resource Division, as well as a more concise list of proposed regulation changes.

The Shellfish Committee unanimously voted to approve a motion made by Robert and seconded by Paul at 7:24 PM to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted: Alicia Lauzon – MEA administrative assistant