

**SHELLFISH COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
DATE: January 14, 2026
TIME: 6:00-8:00 PM**

Shellfish Committee Members present: Patricia Farinha, Bill Cherepon, Paul Hendricks, Jacob Angelo, Timothy Hammel, Gloriann Hurwitz, Jim Weiler

Shellfish Committee Members absent: Douglas Crook, Robert Lancaster

General Public present: Wayne Kurker, John J. Madden, Jason French, Jeffrey Daluz, Henry Cenzalli, Tom L, Tyler Hagenstein, Joe Weinberg

Town Council Liaison present: Gordon Starr

Town Staff present: Amy Croteau, Shellfish Constable; Alicia Lauzon, MEA Office Manager

Bill Cherepon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, as January 14, 2026 meeting of the Shellfish Committee. Vice Chairman Cherepon 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: December 10, 2025 minutes

Tim motioned to approve the December 10, 2025 meeting minutes and Gloriann seconded. There was a unanimous vote in favor of approving minutes as is.

2. Chairman's Comments:

Vice Chairman Cherepon invited Wayne from Hyannis Marina to speak to the committee. Wayne used to make a donation for shellfish seed and would like to donate again because his boat slip customers love it. He would like to know what species and how much money would make it worthwhile. It was mentioned that quahogs and soft-shell clams exist naturally, and quahogs would probably be best propagated in the area. He would like to populate Egg Island which only has boating activity on one side. Constable Croteau discussed the options that would potentially be available for growing and planting seed. She stated that she would discuss with the Shellfish Biologist what would be needed in order for them to try to make something work.

3. Natural Resources Report / Correspondence:

1. Shellfish Growing Area Updates

There are no updates at this time. Water quality testing cannot be done just yet for the Mills River in Prince Cove until at least two weeks before the potential opening, which is still a month away. Constable Croteau read current shellfish permit numbers to date compared to last year. New to this year, recreational permit holders are required to upload photo identification. It is an extra step for administration and permitholders, which has resulted in a decrease in shellfish permit sales so far.

The shellfish team attended NACE (Northeast Aquaculture Conference Exposition). Prep for kids clamming and shellfish classes have begun. The oyster limit has been reduced from a full peck to half a peck to try to prolong oyster season as long as possible. Constable Croteau had asked about the potential of meeting sometimes in person and sometimes zoom. The answer was that a combination can't be done, but the committee can switch to zoom if there are any meetings that the committee might rather do via zoom. They must still abide by open meeting laws. There is no word on Baxter's as of now.

4. New Business:

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

- 1. Hearing for the renewal of the aquaculture license for site ng051 for Christopher Wood, 19 Cove Island Rd, Centerville, MA 02632 for a period of 10 years. Public hearing 01/15/2026 at 10:00AM, via Zoom <https://townofbarnstable-us.zoom.us/j/84733278576>**

The hearing will be held tomorrow. The site is about 2 acres of sand, with no shellfish naturally growing. Chris cultivates quahogs and soft-shell clam. Natural Resources has no issue with the renewal. Jake motioned to recommend approval by the town manager and Tim seconded. All in favor.

- 2. Hearing for the transfer of the aquaculture site ng038 from Carl Carlson, 275 Old Jail Lane, Barnstable, MA 02630 to Jennie Crook, 11 Calvin Hamblin Rd, Marstons Mills, MA 02648 and issuance of a new license to Kimberly Hamblin for a period of 5 years. Public hearing 01/15/2026 at 9:30AM, via Zoom <https://townofbarnstable-us.zoom.us/j/87619212676>**

This site has 8.2 acres. Jennie will be cultivating oysters and quahogs. The proposed method is by hand or rake. Because the transfer is treated as a new license, it cannot exceed 5 years. Natural Resource has no issues. Tim motioned to recommend transfer, Paul seconded. All in favor.

6. Upcoming (and old) Proposed Coastal Projects:

1. Applicant: Brian & Nicole Connolly

Project Location: 169 Salten Point Rd, Barnstable, MA 02630 (map 301, parcel 003)

Representative: Mark Dibb, PE, Cape and Islands Engineering, Inc.

Proposed Project: To construct a boardwalk above mean high water for access to the waters of Barnstable Harbor. The project includes salt marsh restoration for a proposed net environmental benefit to resource areas.

Conservation Hearing: 01/06/2026 6:30PM via Zoom

The applicant wants to create a boardwalk from above the mean high-water line on the property, down to the water. They want to also do salt marsh restoration. There will be no impact to shellfish population. Town Councilor Gordon Starr stated Conservation had approved it to no more than 2 feet high. It was stated that it can't go all the way to the edge of the marsh before it drops off.

7. Special Presentations: None

8. Old Business:

1. Apprentice Program Discussion Continued

Constable Croteau received commentary and read it all into the meeting to have it recorded and will come back to it next month. Constable Croteau did some research on other towns with fisheries. There are a number of towns with similar fisheries to ours. There are many open commercial fisheries. 16 towns had some sort of apprentice or junior permit. All of them had open commercial fisheries. Discussion will continue next month. John J Madden has changed his opinion since submitting commentary, now feeling as though the program should be abolished altogether.

2. 2025-26 Seasonal Dragging Discussion Continued

Constable Croteau shared maps given to her from the public. Constable Croteau reiterated there will be absolutely no dragging in relay areas. It's a hard no on dredging in East Bay. Constable Croteau stated possibly allowing conditionally approved areas the month of April 1 – April 30 and allowing a slightly larger timeframe in year-round open areas. March 1 – April 30.

9. Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

The Shellfish Committee unanimously voted to approve a motion made by Tim and seconded by Jake at 8:00 PM to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted: Alicia Lauzon – MEA Office Manager