



Town of Barnstable

Shellfish Committee

1189 Phinneys Lane, Centerville MA 02632

**SHELLFISH COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
DATE: August 12, 2026
TIME: 6:00-8:00 PM**

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

Shellfish Committee Members absent: None

General Public present: Jason French, Kenneth Aittaniemi, Carol Vicino, Henry Cenzalli, Clarissa Cenzalli, Amanda Houle representing Tighe & Bond, Bruce Blackman, John Madden, Kris Clark, Tyler Hagenstein, Scott Korkuch

Town Staff present: Amy Croteau, Shellfish Constable; Lee Ann Bergal, MEA Administrative Staff

Douglas Crook called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, as July 8, 2026, meeting of the Shellfish Committee. Chairman Crook 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: July 8, 2026, minutes.

Paul Hendricks made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2026, meeting. Timothy Hammel seconded the motion for approval. There was a unanimous vote to approve.

2. Chairman's Comments: None

3. Natural Resources Report / Correspondence:

a. Growing Area Updates & Monthly Propagation Report

Constable Croteau gave an update submitted by Liz Lewis, Shellfish Biologist. We have officially lost both shellfish technicians. Cece Dunham moved back to Florida and is working for University of Florida/SeaGrant in Aquaculture across the state. Jess Ciarcia is now the Shellfish Constable for

Yarmouth. In an effort to hire quickly and efficiently, we are hiring two seasonals and will open up the technician positions in the late fall/early winter. We have filled both those seasonal positions already and they will be starting next week.

We have held two more learn to shellfish classes and had great responses. We've sold a fair amount of shellfish permits from holding these classes. We have two more coming up next weekend.

We have continued maintaining the quahogs nets and have removed several to thin out the areas and relocate the quahogs. We were hoping to be able to open another area of Handy Point to the rec fishery, but that year class is still too small so it will have to wait. From what we have sorted, we have continued supplementing the populations all around town.

We have purchased larger oyster seed from growers in town and we will be able to have an oyster fishery on the south side of town at Cotuit Town Dock this year. We also have some that have persisted through dermo over there that we will put next to the dock to keep that contained. After this season, we will be transitioning back to Bay Street for growing our oysters out of the flupsy. The oysters at Scudder are growing amazingly and it should be a great oyster season at Scudder.

We have received an additional 500,000 3mm oysters from the hatchery, putting us at 1.1 million seed oysters' total. Some have been bumped up in the flupsy and have already been transferred to bags. We have received all of our quahog seed plus some more that was given to us for free from the county, bringing our total up to 4.7 million quahogs on the season.

We purchased seed bay scallops to free plant at Kalmus with the help of a generous donation. Some of that bay scallop seed was reserved and are in seapa bags in Hyannis. We had to move our larger bay scallop project to next year since we lost half of our staff this year, but everything has been approved and we are looking forward to it next year.

We got our second batch of remote set from ARC making 800 bags total. 100 bags went to East Bay to continue that pilot program for one more year. This last year in East Bay will determine if we should continue with the remote set over there.

If you do have any questions about specifics, feel free to reach out to Liz by email or phone! It is an incredibly busy time of year currently running on half staff as well, but she will make herself available.

We do plan to do the Annual Propagation Report at the October meeting. If anyone has specific questions about the propagation program, either Constable Croteau or shellfish Biologist Liz Lewis are happy to make accommodations.

The third trash punk treasure hunt took place on Tuesday. They removed six seed bags, 12 PVC pipes, three lids, 19 trays, five legs to trays, three pieces of net, six onion bags full of dead oysters, six pieces of miscellaneous gear that included rope, rubber coated mesh wood and a duck decoy head.

We have three potentially more trash planned treasure hunts coming up in August/September. This has been taking place just outside the aquaculture zone.

In an effort to enhance the population of bay scallops, Natural Resources has purchased and planted seed bay scallops for the second year off Kalmus Beach. This year, the effort was increased planting

50,000 ½ inch bay scallops with plans for a nursery system in the future to purchase them smaller and release them larger with a higher survival rate.

This initial stocking over the last two years was an effort to see if the habitat can support different size animals. As we have taken a closer look at the area through eel grass monitoring, we have also seen that the population of wild scallops this year is relatively poor in the eel grass. A good portion scallops that are present are what scientists call “nubs”.

On Nantucket, Dr. Valerie Hall has been doing extensive work on these nubs. These are bay scallops that come from a late summer spawn so they have a nice raised growth ring of potentially more than 10mm if conditions are right, but they were born late in the season and can get another spawn out next year because they are young and are not going to die (unlike the bay scallops that we harvest typically right before the end of their live expectancy). Since they were born late and have a growth ring, they may be confused with animals in their second year that are all done, but they actually have another winter in them because they were born so late and should be harvested the following year!

“Through field and lab work in Nantucket Harbor, Dr. Hall proved that these nubs can act as a “bet-hedging” strategy, surviving to spawn during their second summer to protect the stock if the primary early spawn fails”. These “nubs” are actually pretty important to the population’s success and because they have been harvested in previous years because they have the annual growth ring, this may be why we are seeing declining populations.

The minimum size limit on the bay scallop regulation, 407-27 reads as follows: “Only scallops with a well-defined raised annual growth ring may be taken; all other scallops will be considered seed scallops and must be returned to the water immediately with one exception provided in 322 CMR 6.11. This exception states that bay scallops that have a well-defined raised annual growth line located less than 10 mm from the hinge of the shell, shall be lawful to harvest and possess if the shell height is at least 2.5 inches...”

Because we have so many bay scallops out there with at least one annual growth ring that is from being moved from one place to another (stocked) or spawned later in the year, but has a growth line located over 10mm from the hinge, but the animal is still under 2.5in. and will most likely be able to spawn again and keep growing next summer, it would be appropriate here to make the regulation that bay scallops need to be 2.5 inches off of Kalmus Beach to prevent stocked bay scallops and “nubs” from being harvested. This is the best solution to be able to keep Kalmus open to harvest, but keep a sustainable fishery and the next generation of scallops alive so we can have a season next year.

Check out this website: <https://www.mariamitchell.org/nantucket-bay-scallops> and find some of Dr. Hall’s work to read more about the science of nubs.

Discussion continued regarding the potential for a future STEM experience in the classroom of planting Eel grass on young quahog shells for later transplant to shellfish growing areas. The need for and retention of technicians is needed to facilitate this educational project and useful experience.

FDA came to audit and we passed with flying colors. They were interested in us readjusting the closure areas around Cotuit Town Landing and why Bluff Point Relay Area and that shoreline remains open. In 2019 we were given this change to the NSP, which is the National Shellfish Sanitation Program's Model ordinance pertaining to mooring areas. We tried to keep areas of shellfish value open and shifted the dilution calculation to keep those areas in the mooring area rather than along the shoreline in recent years, past years. They now say that it's not just like 20 boats that will close an area, but 20 boats that would have marine sanitation devices, which is why those two mooring areas around Cotuit Oyster Company and the Bridge Street recreational area went away and reabsorbed into Cotuit Bay and West Bay. My argument against their complaint is the vast majority of vessels that fall along the shorelines of the Cotuit Town Landing mooring area and the Hyannis Outer Harbor mooring area are sailboats and day trippers, they're boats that don't have capacity for overnight occupancy, boats that would not have marine sanitation devices. I think that there's an argument to shrink even further those conditionally approved areas moving forward and have engaged in those initial discussions with DMF. There was further discussion to finding out whether vessels moored in this area have sanitation devices on board. A suggestion to see if this could be a question asked in the future for mooring permit holders was encouraged.

4. New Business:

a. Annual Chair and Vice Chair Nominations

Robert Lancaster made a motion to nominate the current Chair, Doug Crook to another term. Paul Hendricks seconded the motion. Jacob Angelo abstained. All in favor were Timothy Hammel, Jim Weiler, Bill Cherepon, Gloriann Hurwitz, Patricia Farinha.

Gloriann Hurwitz made a motion to nominate Bill Cherepon to another term as Vice Chair. Paul Hendricks seconded the nomination. All in favor were Timothy Hammel, Jim Weiler, Bill Cherepon, Gloriann Hurwitz, Patricia Farinha, Jacob Angelo.

b. Helpers Discussion

Discussion as to the number of helpers. Timothy Hammel recommended only one helper. Amy stated it is not clearly defined. Jacob Angelo pointed out that the limit is the same no matter how many helpers are out there, or how long it takes to reach the limit. If someone wants to pay for helpers out of their own pocket it is their choice and their business. Restricting helpers could hurt fishermen. Mr. Hammel felt it wasn't fair if someone couldn't afford to have extra helpers. Jacob Angelo stated that we all have the same license, limits, same regulations and days they can go so we are all equal. Patricia Farinha asked for clarification as to why you would want a limit. Henry Cenzalli expressed his concern that this is overfishing. You can't have helpers for quahogs or steamers or any other species. If you can't reach your limit in the time you have, then that's it. It helps the fishery last longer. Mr. Hammel stated he thought this goes against the protection of the fishery if you run out of tide that protects the fishery. Mr. Angelo stated you can dive to get your limit after the tide and there is no other cap on any wild fishery.

c. Quahog Dry Dragging 2026-27 Discussion

Jacob Angel said he would like to be able to go in all the areas that are going to be marked for dredging, whether it's in the next ten years or the next one year, because we don't really know when it's going to happen and we don't know exactly what's in those areas. To open them individually could be nothing in there while another area that needs to be worked is waiting to be opened, and we don't know how long we're going to have and we don't do it in the summertime at all, so we only have the winter. My only suggestion with just every area, every footprint that is going to be dredged and be decimated that we all have a shot at it in the winter. Mr. Hammel thought this was a great idea. Constable Croteau stated this couldn't be done in closed areas. Sticking to the footprint of what was proposed in the 10-year Comprehensive Dredge Plan would mitigate the issues of competition between dragging versus hand digging. West Bay and North Bay Channel are coming up in October 1st, Time-of-Year Restrictions. Next will be Centerville River which is 3 plus years out which we would do relays when we can. Mr. Angelo asked if it would be possible for them to go in September. Constable Croteau said she would reach out to Griffin at DPW for a timeline. Paul Hendricks asked about the Mills River, and other old spots that that the bottoms were cleaned. Constable Croteau said she would like to check in on the channel in the Mills River to see how the dry dragging is since its been 3 years. The opening of the Mills River would probably be in February 2027. There is time for future discussion, so it should be kept on the Agenda.

5. Upcoming (and old) Proposed Coastal Projects

Amanda Houle, Principal Scientist with Tighe & Bond, Inc. representing the applicant: Paul Graves, Senior Project Manager, DPW described in detail the repair/rehabilitation proposed for the Craigville Beach Road Bridge over the Centerville River to address multiple deficiencies observed during a comprehensive visual inspection conducted by Tighe & Bond in November 2022 and recorded in the most recent Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) inspection report (dated July 2024). These inspections identified multiple issues in need of repair, including structural deficiencies (e.g. cracks, spalling), scour, vegetation overgrowth, failed bank channel protection, guard rail damage, and sidewalk deficiencies. After questions and discussion, review of agencies, various comments made by agencies and Time of Year Restrictions were all reviewed the Committee was in favor of the project as presented.

7. Old Business:

- a. Apprentice Program Moratorium regulation wording discussion continued from July

There was further discussion on the regulation wording. A motion was made and voted upon regarding Regulation 407-12C on raising the required age to get the apprentice program completed from 18 to 21 years of age. A second motion was made to keep the age of 18 for completion of the apprentice program. The votes favored the retention of age 18 years for completion of the apprentice program.

After discussion of wording on the Moratorium of the Apprentice Program a motion was made by Jacob Angelo to approve the wording of 407-12C, Gloriann Hurwitz seconded the motion, all remaining committee members voted unanimously in favor to accept the wording as given.

- b. Transfer of Commercial Permit regulation wording discussion continued from July

Discussion continued regarding the wording of definitions of immediate family and the transfer to immediate family as defined. A motion was made by Jacob Angelo to accept the wording as given for 704-12 A.(2)(c). Timothy Hammell seconded the motion, the remaining committee members voted unanimously in favor to accept the wording as given.

- c. Sub-Committee to study Conservation, Zoning and Harbormaster regulations to other Towns to protect habitat – check in

Jim Weiler gave a presentation on his findings, research and limitations on what they wish to accomplish as well as documents he will be sharing with members for their review and further discussion. Specific areas that may be useful in their support of habitat protection were discussed as well as examples where they faced challenges in the past.

- d. Commercial to Commercial Zone Barnstable harbor discussion continued from July.

Constable Croteau stated she was open to continuing the discussion. Extensive comments were made by the public as well as committee members. Constable Croteau restated her reasons for her decision, her willingness to accept commentary, however she is not ready to draft a recommendation to the Town Manger.

9. Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair: None

The Shellfish Committee unanimously voted to approve a motion made by Patricia Farinha and seconded by Robert Lancaster at 7:58 PM to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted: Lee Ann Bergal – MEA Administrative Staff