



Town of Barnstable

Shellfish Committee

1189 Phinneys Lane, Centerville MA 02632

**SHELLFISH COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
DATE: February 11, 2026
TIME: 6:00-8:00 PM**

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

Shellfish Committee Members absent: Paul Hendricks, Robert Lancaster

General Public present: Bruce Blackman, Henry Cenzalli, Joe Weinberg, Jeffrey Daluz, Jason French, John Madden

Town Council Liaison present: Gordon Starr

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

Douglas Crook called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, as February 11, 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: January 14, 2026 minutes

Jake motioned to approve the January 14, 2026 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. Growing Area Updates

Constable Croteau stated that after years of water quality testing in Barnstable Harbor, areas CCB 31.1, 31.3, 31.4 and 31.5, which are now all 31.0, no longer need to be conditionally approved and is

classified as open. As of right now, the Marstons Mills River and Prince Cove won't open on time, because a boat can't get out for testing due to the ice, but a boat will hopefully go out for testing Tuesday, February 17th. There was an emergency closure December 31st on Sea St because of sanitary sewerage overflow, causing a mandatory 21 day closure.

Constable Croteau stated that she reached out to DMF to question what is fishing gear debris in regard to the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) new regulations about fishing gear debris cleanup. It is defined as a net or trap designed to catch fish. Aquaculture gear does not fall under the category of fishing gear.

2. Monthly Propagation Report

Because of the cold and icy weather, the shellfish team has been focusing on preparing for the expanding school programs.

Constable Croteau stated there was a procedural issue with the Commercial Shellfish lottery causing three people who had paid the \$5 application fee and met the deadline to not be in the drawing. Because of that, the Natural Resource division reached out to legal as to how they should proceed. To prevent this from happening again in the future, the application will be treated as a waitlist on the individual's account instead of a point-of-sale item. Legal advised that the best course of action would be to hold a redraw. The redraw will happen next Tuesday at 10 AM via zoom. The original number one and number two winners from the first drawing will still be honored, as well as the number one and number two winners from the redraw. There was discussion on the Commercial lottery drawing with disagreements on having four new permits added to the fishery instead of two because of the redraw. There was a lot of discussion on going from a 47 person fishery to a 49 person fishery and it was asked if any bylaws or regulations had to be changed in order to accommodate this addition to the fishery. The answer to which was no. Ultimately, the decision was made by the Natural Resource division after being vetted through the legal department, and the decision will stand.

4. New Business:

1. Snow Removal at Landings Discussion

Chairman Crook asked for this agenda item because he was told by DPW that it is not their responsibility to plow town landings. He plowed Blish Point himself and asked if the parking area and not the ramp could be added to his route. He was saying that not having them plowed could be very dangerous.

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

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

7. Special Presentations: None

8. Old Business:

1. Apprentice Program Discussion Continued

Constable Croteau read four more responses to the apprenticeship program into the record. *The Shellfish Committee meeting lost audio due to technical issues during the readings. * It was mentioned that no other town with a closed fishery has any type of apprentice program. Constable Croteau stated that some of the numbers of other fisheries, even with open fisheries, are similar to the numbers of our closed fishery. There was mention of wanting to cap fishery at the 49 individuals, honoring the 7 apprentices and then getting rid of the program or possibly cutting out this program and starting fresh with a new one. Constable Croteau suggested putting a pin in the discussion until next month, when it can be put to a vote as to what should be done with the program. Tim motioned doing so and Jake seconded. All in favor.

2. 2025-26 Seasonal Dragging Discussion Continued

Constable Croteau said dragging would only be allowed April 1 – April 30 in West Bay and the Seapuit River. She stated that she was open to starting earlier, possibly March 1st in some areas, but not in conditionally approved areas that are only open for a limited amount of time.

9. Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

The Shellfish Committee unanimously voted to approve a motion made by Jack and seconded by Tim at 7:30 PM to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted: Alicia Lauzon – MEA Office Manager