



# Town of Barnstable

## Shellfish Committee

1189 Phinneys Lane, Centerville MA 02632

### SHELLFISH COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

DATE: May 13, 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, Paul Hendricks

**Shellfish Committee Members absent:** Robert Lancaster

**General Public present:** Jason French, John Lavell, Bruce Blackman, Henry Cenzalli, Cameron Larson, Nick Weinberg, Connor Rogan

**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 May 13, 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:** April 8, 2026, minutes.

Timothy Hammel motioned to approve the April 8, 2026 minutes and Gloria Hurwitz seconded. There was a unanimous vote in favor of approving minutes as written.

2. **Chairman's Comments:**

Douglas Crook made no comments from the Chair.

3. **Natural Resources Report / Correspondence:**

1. Growing Area Updates

Constable Croteau stated June 1<sup>st</sup> closures include the Cotuit Town Landing Mooring Area will close however the relay area remains open year-round and is stocked routinely. Effective June 15<sup>th</sup> the

conditionally approved area in the Cotuit Narrows will close. In Hyannis the conditionally approved area and Lewis Bay also subject to mooring area closure and Hyannis outer mooring area will also close on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **2. Monthly Propagation Report**

Constable Croteau gave an update submitted by Shellfish Technicians Jess Ciarcia and Cecilia Dunham have been busy and working with the seasonals that started back up in early May. We have two returning seasonals.

We have been working with Oysters off Scudder; remote set plot will be located east of last year's area. Oysters on the south experienced winter mortality and a sample was sent to Rhode Island for pathology testing. To offset decreased numbers, we will be going out to bid to supplement stock for upcoming oyster season.

Staff continue to replace missing buoys, clean quahog nets, and complete general gear maintenance.

We had two successful razor clam classes with the public, resulting in a third class being added at the end of May. Registration has opened for the free summer Learn to Shellfish classes. There are six classes as well as two days of Kids Clamming Class. We will be holding our first Volunteer Dig Day to kick off the volunteer season.

Constable Croteau and Shellfish Biologist Elizabeth Lewis will be going before Waterways Committee to discuss potential approval of a new scallop propagation area in a non-boating area off of Estey's in Lewis Bay. The area is also safer than where they are currently permitted to go which is outside of the breakwater.

May 19<sup>th</sup> kicks off Vibrio season, if you are a grower, it's time to start logging, so please stop by the office to get your book or see a shellfish officer who should have them on hand in the field.

## **4. New Business:**

- 1. Development of Sub-Committee to study Conservation, Zoning and Harbormaster regulations of other Towns to protect habitat- Discussion**

Open discussion on different investigative resources available to determine how other towns are protecting the shellfish habitat from the building, expansion and alterations of docks and piers in their towns. Discussions continued around the Conservation Commission and the Shellfish Committee and how the Shellfish Committee can more efficiently and successfully support the protection of shellfish habitat. The Committee hopes to have a better understanding of the bylaws and regulations of other communities that are making progress in this area to see what might be presented for future consideration and change to be presented.

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

**6. Upcoming (and old) Proposed Coastal Projects:**

1. Applicant: Scott Miller, LDS Development Group, LLC  
Project Location: 640 Popponessett Rd, Cotuit, MA 02635 (map 006, parcel 018)  
Representative: Matthew Eddy, Baxter Nye Engineering  
Proposed Project: Proposed installation of dock and float  
Conservation Hearing: 04/28/2026 6:30PM via Zoom  
<https://townofbarnstable-us.zoom.us/j/88115528632>

Presenting were John Lavell of Baxter & Nye Engineering and Cameron Larson of ECR. The project consists of a single-family home where the construction of a pier, ramp and float is proposed. A 4' wide pier, 10' x 20' float with a 3' wide ramp is proposed. There will be electric and water services along the pier and stairs on both sides for public access. Owner is currently looking at boats something like a 15' Boston Whaler with a 17" draft. The water depth is around 29" so there would be 12" of clearance.

Cameron Larson with ECR and Paul Caruso, a marine fisheries biologist, to do a shellfish survey at the project location. They completed five separate transects that ran along the centerline of the proposed pier location and then north and south of it, sampling every ten feet along each of those transects, for a total of about 75 samples. What they found for shellfish was a narrow band from the saltmarsh to extending seaward between 10" and 30" of softshell clams. They were located subtidal. They didn't actually sample any of the clams themselves. They were just too deep for the rake. They observed numerous siphon holes in that area. Beyond that, substrate got very muddy. They did not sample any quahogs on this site. There were a few loose oysters found in the area nearest the marsh, as well as rib mussels, a good amount of rib mussels within the marsh itself. The pier and float have been designed to get beyond that narrow bed of soft-shell clam habitat.

The project was continued at the 4/28/26 Conservation Commission Hearing and was approved at the 4/28/26 Waterways Committee Meeting.

Site is in a prohibited area. Committee suggested possible float stops to prevent bottom scouring at a minus low tide. After discussion the Committee approved the project.

**7. Special Presentations: None**

**8. Old Business:**

1. Apprentice Program Moratorium- Vote on wording

Discussion lead by Constable Croteau reviewing the intention, ramifications and wording for the Apprentice Program Moratorium. No vote taken at this time.

## **2. Transfer of Commercial Permit- Discussion continued**

**Open Discussion continued. Constable Croteau will continue to work on this, taking into account all of the areas of concern. Discussion to continue at next month's meeting.**

## **3. Commercial Harvest of Razor Clams from within the Closed to Commercial Zone**

**Per the Commission's request Constable Croteau and Jacob Angelo and Constable Croteau and Shellfish Staff on separate occasions assessed the populations within the Closed Commercial Zone. Discussion of challenges to reach these areas with equipment available. Shellfish Biologist will reassess and stake possible area that will be allowed for commercial harvest in closed zone. The area will be defined as pins will be dropped on stakes and maps will be created with assistance of GIS and maps will be shared with the commercial fishery. This is contingent upon the Town Managers' approval. Commercial days will be Monday through Friday. During time open for commercial harvest of razor clams, the weekly recreational limit for razor clams will be two pecks and will be allowed 7 days a week. This is also contingent upon Town Managers approval. There is no urgency to roll this out but should have if all approved for July.**

## **9. Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:**

The Shellfish Committee unanimously voted to approve a motion made by Tim and seconded by Jacob at 6:55 PM to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted: Lee Ann Bergal – MEA Administrative Staff