

From: gloriann hurwitz <hurwitzc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 10:05 AM
To: Coleman, Nina <Nina.Coleman@barnstable.gov>
Subject: Request to attend meeting 10/8/2026

Dear Ms. Coleman,

This letter is in response to the Shellfish Committee Workshop held on October 6, 2026 by Zoom: the workshop was well attended but primarily by business interest. As a representative of Recreational stakeholders, it is important that those interests are considered and weighed against suggestions dominating the workshop.

It was discouraging to hear that the business owners were embracing having their business interest subsidized by Barnstable tax payers. A private business should not be subsidized by taxes. The financial benefit to the business is a personal reward and not one the town needs to support. Every tax dollar that goes to these private companies is a tax dollar taken from essential services, such as schools, roads, police and fire.

The suggestion that the rate paid by Recreational shareholders should be increased beyond the proposed rate, is yet another shifting of the business's responsibility. Although a Recreational

representative offered to triple the recreational rate, to do so would be another "tax" on Barnstable residents as the majority of Recreational license holders are town residents.

The remarks that Recreational license holders could just "not buy the license" was not only insensitive, but a prediction of what will happen if the fee is raised to continue the subsidy. There are plenty of people who shellfish to put food on the table, not just to have fun. While the town provides licenses to SNAP beneficiaries, there are plenty of people who do not qualify for SNAP (especially now) but still struggle with food insecurity.

Justifying shifting the business expense to the Recreational license holder by comparing the cost of self harvested shellfish to what it would cost in the market is unreasonable. The shellfish in the market have been profited from at least three times: the fisherman/farmer, the middleman, and the retail establishment. Profits that would be subsidized by the Recreational license and are currently being subsidized by the Town of Barnstable taxpayers.

Use of town property to run a business, especially at a lease price set in the 1940's of \$25.00 per acre, is in itself a windfall. Fees paid to the town are a business expense that business owners can deduct from their taxes. Recreational license holders do not have this opportunity, for them it is an out of pocket expense.

Business interest should be self-sustaining. We have a waitlist for business opportunities, so if businesses drop out there are many potential businesses waiting to take that place. If the Recreational people drop out, there is no wait list and the fees paid will not be replaced. This will increase the cost to the town if the business subsidy continues.

Finally, the meeting which will be held on Thursday, October 8, should have a representative from Recreational attending as the Chairman of the Shellfish Committee expressed being "offended by the fee increase" in his closing statements during the October 6th Workshop. Business interests will be represented at this meeting, therefore Recreational should be equally represented.

I am requesting to attend to represent the interest of the Recreational license holders.

Respectfully,
Gloriann Hurwitz