

Croteau, Amy

From: mskolva@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:01 PM
To: MEA Mailbox
Subject: For Tuesday 6th meeting

To Whom It May Concern:

Incase I can't make tonight's zoom meeting. I wanted to get my notes over to you all, concerning the fee proposal.

First and foremost, I do support having to pay more to keep this wonderful resource going; Amy and team are amazing.

We are getting hit from all sides right now. As a taxpayer, we pay taxes on everything, and then on top of that we pay for beach access, ramp access, extra special fees to ramps and parking access.

So, I want to ask some questions for some clarity.

- ☐ What am I getting for the increase, how am I benefiting directly? (Please remove the wages from this question it is not about human capital.) Bottom line, what is the direct impact to the end user?
- ☐ Will we get more seed spread in commercial areas with the extra funds? How is that \$100-18% (minimum) increase going to that helps equate to more clams in my basket?
- ☐ Can we get more detailed area maps?
- ☐ I have to "fight" to get my boat in the water with the public, and battle for parking spots, have no exclusive claims to land to fish, and I still am trying to make a living. Can you give commercial moorings to wild diggers, or commercial wild digging parking?
- ☐ 18% increase for me to just dig Quahogs; 18% more for soft shell 18% razor; can we split the difference make is \$50?
- ☐ I do not like the idea that I have to pay for so many species, but if so, I would like to be able to add them "a la carte" whenever I want.
- ☐ Just two years ago, in 2024, you increased fees – what was the reason and can you show me how that increase help or improved the fishery? Or, did that fee go to things above the high tide mark?
- ☐ Note - We are not getting 18% increase from our sales to the dealers, nor are our state fees or operating costs going down.
- ☐ Can we get 18% more time to shellfish – Sundays??
- ☐ Do we get 18% more seed planted in our areas?

As a commercial person who also has a recreation permit (used occasionally to teach kids and new people to shellfish), can you perhaps have it so if we only pay the increase commercial fee (*which I think should be 50% of what you're asking for) this year. We shouldn't also have to pay the increase for rec permit too. For example, there could be three options:

1. Rec permit
2. Commercial permit
3. Combine rec and commercial for the 47-49 people that have them?

Are you asking all the people putting in new docks/piers for more money to directly help replace the impact they have on the shellfish grounds? You put in a new structure, do you pay for 1,000,000 clam seed that goes to commercial diggers? They are not putting new docks in the rec-only areas, but the town is taking away more commercial areas. Also consider putting a lifetime % adder to that fee, since once the dock is in we never get the land back.

I would like to see how the other town divisions are charging taxpayers for their impact to the fisheries.

Grant folks, they use the same ramps we do and pull the same product, are they getting the same rate of increase? I am not picking on grant people, but they use town spaces more than I do, and they have land I cannot touch. They can grow their own product that I aim for as a wild harvester person, and can the flood market and drop my price.

Pay town taxes

Pay shellfish fee commercial

Pay state license because we need to have town license (all other state fees excluded in my points)

Pay rec shellfish fee

Pay to beach access

Pay for ramps

Pay for extra ramps

Pay tax on boat

Pay tax on truck

Pay tax on trailer

At status quo, I was okay. with what we have.

Parking, especially during the summer is a major hinderance. Can we get designated parking spaces for us to use as we work? Can we get designated commercial use moorings?

Where are you cutting back to save money (instead of increasing fees) - trucks, boats, programs, overtime? How have you worked to reduce your operating expenses? Let's say all 49 of us pay the extra \$100 that is \$4,900 simple math. Can you not figure out how to cut less than 5k in the budget, rather than pushing that off on the end-users? The town of Barnstable can't find \$4,900 of waste/inefficiency in its \$225 million budget?

The new online lottery program, I assume cost more money, and ended up adding 2 more people to an already closed fishery. What was that expense?

If you asked for 5% maybe I won't have been so inclined to ask all these questions, but right now at an 18% impact to me, I really want to know what more am I getting? You got to give us something, because I am not sure what you can take away from us without the 18%, the opening or relay area and the stock seed planting in a few areas we can dig? I am not saying I do not appreciate those, but do those current privileges equate to a min 18%

Thanks
Matt

Sent from my iPhone