

Shellfish Conservation Committee Minutes

DATE 1/13/2023 TIME: 6:30 PM

MEETING LOCATION: COMMUNITY ROOM

Commission Members:

Attendance: A for absent, P for present

Attendance	Name	Town	Term
P	Stephen Demelle	North Yarmouth	June 30, 2023
P	Kevin Oliver	North Yarmouth	June 30, 2024
P	Len Kaminow	North Yarmouth	June 30, 2024
P	Judy Colby-George	Yarmouth	December 31, 2023
P	Brandy Adams	Yarmouth	December 31, 2022
		Yarmouth	December 31, 2023

Staff Members:

Attendance	Name	Title/Role
A	Will Owen	Shellfish Warden
A	Randy Bates	Town Council Liaison
A	Ari Leach	Dept. of Marine Resources

Guests/Diggers : none

Minutes –

Votes/Quorum: All final votes of the commission shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of those members present and voting provided a quorum is present. A quorum shall be deemed present if a minimum of four (4) members are present. A CHAPTER 305 10 quorum shall be required for the transaction of all business except that a smaller number can adjourn to another time.

Reviewed Minutes for Nov 11, 2022

Edits to minutes: Capitalize Will in Spat Box report, and change year to years in Dep Harvesting discussion.

Vote taken, 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstain.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
<p>1. DISCUSSION Warden’s Report</p> <p>Warden was not at meeting, so no warden’s report.</p> <p>Kevin pointed out that he should have 6 points for the survey on 5/7/22.</p>		

2. DISCUSSION **Ordinance Change/Civic Licenses-Tabled until Dec Meeting**

Proposed changes to Licenses in ordinance:

Definitions

Civic License: The term “Civic” refers to a group of less than or equal to 20 people who are members of a non-profit organization which meets in Yarmouth or North Yarmouth on a regular basis.

A. Licenses

3. Notwithstanding the above stated licensing requirements, in order to enable a small group to harvest clams for the experience, the civic license provides the ability of a group of less than 20 individuals to collectively harvest up to 1 peck once per season. The license would have to be approved by the Warden and would be valid for 3 days upon issuance. There would be no fee for the license and the group would have to let the warden know where they will be digging.
Warden will ensure that the group meets all requirement of licensure and understands where clams can be harvested and how to check to ensure that flats are open.

Committee discussed this change and approved the language. Judy will run it by Nat and we will vote on the change at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Review language with Nat	Judy	2/7/23

4. DISCUSSION **Grant Report**

Tabled

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

OLD BUSINESS	none
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Write a letter for planning board regarding docks. – Judy will work on this but has not done so yet.

Can the committee chair have an email shellfish@yarmouthme.org that can be forwarded to the chair's email?

The town does not provide email addresses to committees. We can set up a gmail account and use that for shellfish, the committee will be responsible to transfer ownership of that account to a new chair.

Calendar: Could we put together a calendar of yearly events so we know what is coming up? Also, do we have a long range plan for conservation activities? We started a plan, but it has not been operationalized. The committee will pick this back up in December.

Draft Calendar provided to committee and attached to these minutes. People will review and see if any changes need to be made. The intention is that committee members each have a copy so that they know in general when things need to be completed. It will be a great help to new members so that they have an understanding of the overall flow of the committee.

Conservation activities: Last month Judy listed the costs for seed. The committee discussed the possibility of finding some upweller space to grow the seed out some before planting. This would be a couple year process of getting seed, growing it out, and planting. We discussed the possibility of netting some of the area and not other parts to see how much impact the netting has. We will continue to look at this and hope to make a plan for the future. Judy will talk to Nat about our budget and look into upweller space.

Licenses: The committee has discussed on multiple occasions and continued this month to discuss how DMR makes recommendations related to number of licenses. It would be very helpful to us to understand what data and analysis is done so that we could have a better idea when making our recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS	
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Conservation Points: The committee further discussed the implication of green crab trapping. There was some thought that this activity is not equivalent to doing a survey and that the method for determining the collection has not gone smoothly and should potentially be dropped from the approved activities. Also discussed was adding an requirement that people participate in 1 survey each year in order to collect any other conservation points. This recognizes our need to have more surveys and more assistance on those surveys to better track the resource available.

Judy will write up language related to surveys and look to see if we voted to add green crab trapping as an approved activity because that never made it into the ordinance. She will also check with Nat about making that change.

The committee would like to hear from DMR regarding water quality data again this year. It would also be great to get landings data before we have to make a decision on licenses in March. Judy will email Ari and Meryl to see if they can attend our next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: February 7, 2022

Meeting will be held at the **Community Room in the Town Hall at 6:30 pm**. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Agenda items	Proposed time	Time for discussion
1. Review minutes	6:30	5
2. Warden's report	6:35	10
3. Water quality report	6:45	20
4. Landings Report	7:05	15
5. Ordinance Change Discussion-Civic License & Conservation Points	7:20	15
6. Set Survey Dates	7:35	5
7. Conservation Program – seeding plan	7:40	5
8. Old business	7:45	10
9. New business	7:55	5
10. Adjourn meeting	8:00	

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED 8:00 pm

Annual Shellfish Commission Schedule

Month	Commission	Licenses	Council	DMR
January	Final Report of Conservation Points for previous year.			
February	Review Water Quality and Landings.			Receive Water Quality & Landings report from DMR
March	License Recommendation to send to Council & DMR Vote for Chair/V Chair/Secretary		Workshop License recommendation	Send DMR license recommendation
April	Survey		Approve Number and Cost of licenses	
May	Survey	May 1 -15 Commercial License Renewal May 20 th : Recreational Licenses available		
June		June 1: Lottery for New Commercial Licenses Current Yearly Licenses Expire June 30 th		
July	No Meeting	Yearly Licenses effective July 1		
August	No Meeting			
September	Survey			
October	If there are changes to the ordinance, send to council			
November				
December				