

Shellfish Conservation Committee Minutes

DATE 2/6/2024

TIME: 6:35 PM

MEETING LOCATION: COMMUNITY ROOM

Commission Members:

Attendance: A for absent, P for present

Attendance	Name	Town	Term
		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, 2026
P	Brandy Adams	Yarmouth	December 31, 2025
P	Peter Hubbard	Yarmouth	December 31, 2026

Staff Members:

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

Guests/Diggers : None

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.

Minutes – Approve meeting minutes from January 2, 2024 with amendments, fix Harold Hubbard’s name on page 3, add amended Final Conservation Point Report.

Passed Unanimously.

1. DISCUSSION	Warden’s Report	
See attached Warden’s report.		
Will handed out the revised Final Conservation Point Report for 2023, which added 2021 points. Report is also attached here.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2. DISCUSSION	Survey Results
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Discussion about survey results tabled until March meeting when they will be available.

The warden was asked if he attended all the surveys and he responded that he had not. There was a discussion about whether or not the Warden’s job description requires him to preset at all surveys. It does say that he should oversee the surveys.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	ACTION ITEMS

3. DISCUSSION	DMR Grant RFP
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A Draft version of the grant request was presented to the committee. The grant is due March 3, which is before our next meeting. Judy will update the costs numbers in the grant for the town contributions and add detail to the proposal related to the town’s experience with upwellers. She will email the final copy to the committee before sending it in so they can read it and comment.

Motion: Approve grant proposal with changes identified above.

Motion was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Revise Grant, send to committee, and send to DMR	Judy	3/3/2024

4. DISCUSSION	Review Meeting Schedule
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The committee reviewed the Annual Shellfish Commission Schedule and made some changes including:

- Add select survey dates to February
- Move Landings report from DMR to March
- Add Approve Conservation Activities to March

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Update schedule and attach to minutes	Judy	3/5/2024

5. DISCUSSION **Election of Officers**

Chair – Len Kaminow
 Vice Chair – Peter Hubbard
 Secretary – Judy Colby-George

Motion to Elect the slate of officers by Kevin, seconded by Brandy
 Motion was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

6. DISCUSSION **Set Survey Dates**

Date	Low Tide	Tide Level	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Survey Location
5/5/24	3:25 pm	-0.3	1:00 pm	Old Town Landing	Old Town Landing
5/28/24	9:22 am	-0.1	8:00 am	Sea Meadows	Sea Meadows to the right
9/26/24	12:38 pm	0.6	10:30 am	Town Landing	TBD

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Judy to cc the committee when sending the minutes to Town Clerk.

Annual Report for DMR – Clerk had a few questions for the committee to answer related to conservation activities. Len reviewed them and filled in all the answers and will return the report to the clerk.

Ari Leach sent an email with link to state listening sessions to discuss the Aquaculture Lease Program. Dates and locations are:

- [Portland: March 6, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM](#)
 - Portland High School Auditorium - 284 Cumberland Ave.
- [Belfast: March 7, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM](#)
 - Belfast Area High School Gym - 98 Waldo Ave.
- [Newcastle: March 13, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM](#)
 - Lincoln Academy Cafeteria - 81 Academy Hill.
- [Machias: March 14, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM](#)
 - uMaine Machias Science Building Room 102 - 116 Obrien Ave.
- [Ellsworth: March 21, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM](#)
 - Moore Community Center Theater - 133 State St.

Kevin reported on his meeting with the Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Steering Committee. The group is working on ways to bring together a number of groups collecting water quality data and looking into creating push notifications for harvesters in the event of an emergency.

Kevin requested that the commission look into changing the ordinance language in order to provide time for the commission to deal with a commercial license that is not renewed. DMR indicated that if that happens, the commission could request that the license be retired. The commission would have to provide information to DMR as to why the license should be retired. Currently there is not enough time between learning that a license is not renewed and assigning that license through conservation points or lottery. Harvesters have until May 15 to renew licenses and any available licenses must be assigned on June 1st.

Next Meeting Date: March 5, 2024

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	5
3. Survey Report	6:40	10
4. Landings report	6:50	10
5. Develop approved Conservation activities	7:05	15
6. License Recommendation to Council	7:15	20
7. Ordinance Changes	7:35	15
8. Old business	7:40	5
9. New business	7:45	15
10. Adjourn meeting	8:00	

TIME ADJOURNED 8:20 pm



Town of Yarmouth
 Marine Patrol
 200 Main Street
 Yarmouth, ME 04096
 (207) 846-3333 Telephone (207) 846-2433 Fax

February 6th, 2024, Shellfish Warden Committee Report. Officer Will Owen.

Checks range from January 2nd, 2024 thru February 6th, 2024

Day Locations Checked	119
Night Locations Checked	32
Contacts Made	0
Worm Diggers	0

Incentive Program Points 2024 M: Meeting S: Survey RS: Regional Shellfish

Names	M 1-2
Brandy Adams	
Stephen Demelle	
Peter Hubbard	1
Len Kaminow	1
Jessica Joyce	
Andrew Feeney	
Rachael Whitmarsh	
Judy Colby-George	1

Commercial Harvesters Conservation Time M: Meeting S: Survey RS: Regional Shellfish

Names	M 1-2
Kevin Oliver	
Joe Delano	



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Incentive Program Passed by Yarmouth Town Council on 12-17-20.

Incentive Program Points 2021, 2022 & 2023

Names	2021 Points	2022 Points	2023 Points	Total
Brandy Adams	1	24	4	29
Brandon Gibbs	12			12
Stephen Demelle	2	23	2	27
Emily Farr		6		6
Amanda Moeser	8			8
Len Kaminow	10	11	9	36
Jessica Joyce		6		6
Andrew Feeney		7	2	9
Ben Tupper	24	10		34
Peter Hubbard			14	14
Rachel Whitmarsh			7	7