

Shellfish Conservation Committee Minutes

DATE 3/2/2020

TIME: 7:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: LOG CABIN

Commission Members:

Attendance: A for absent, P for present

| Attendance | Name | Town | Term |
|------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| P | Harold Hibbard III | North Yarmouth | June 30, 2023 |
| P | Kevin Oliver | North Yarmouth | June 30, 2021 |
| | | North Yarmouth | June 30, 2022 |
| P | Judy Colby-George | Yarmouth | December 31, 2022 |
| | | Yarmouth | December 31, 2021 |
| P | Ben Tupper | Yarmouth | December 31, 2023 |

Staff Members:

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

Guests/Diggers : Mike Brown

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 November (revised to include Joe Delano as guest, a motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as amended

Vote taken, 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstain.

Agenda topics

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| 1. DISCUSSION | Warden’s Report | |
| See attached. | | |
| There was a discussion about the request for a Standard Lease by Running Tide for 100 acres near White’s Cove. The committee would like to have the applicant come to a meeting and go over their plans with us. | | |
| Judy informed everyone that we were not awarded a grant this year. We were encouraged to work on our application and resubmit next year. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Invite Running Tide for discussion about Lease | Will | March 30 |
| Call Denis Nault to discuss Grant Application | Will | March 30 |

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| 2. DISCUSSION Oyster Reef Development | | |
| Amanda discusses with the attendees in December, there was not a quorum so there were no minutes. The board should revisit this discussion in the future. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Tabled | | |
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| 3. DISCUSSION Meeting Length Policy | | |
| In order to help keep our meetings to a reasonable length and encourage us to stay on task the board discussion a meeting length policy. | | |
| Motion: <i>Meetings will be no longer than 90 minutes (usually 7 pm – 8:30 pm) unless there is an affirmative vote by a majority of the committee to extend the length of the meeting.</i> | | |
| Moved: Judy Seconded: Ben Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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| 4. DISCUSSION Quahog Seeding Plan | | |
| Offers have been made to the committee to donate quahog seed if the committee will develop a plan for where to seed. Ben made the point that there is probably some time limit on the offers and we may need to take this up sooner rather than later. There was no further action. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Tabled | | |
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| 5. DISCUSSION | Shellfish Recreational License Survey | |
| Jen has the survey and has agreed to hand it out when licenses are applied for. She will encourage individuals to fill it out before they leave the town office. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
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| 6. DISCUSSION | Regional Shellfish Meeting | |
| The group is working on a variety of initiatives. Kevin has been attending the steering committee meetings regularly. They are working on slides for each town to have about the importance of the industry. The slides are intended to help educate policy makers. There will be meetings during the Virtual Fisherman’s Forum Shellfish Day coming up. The survey about development of a data portal has been concluded and we had about 60 people respond to the survey. Results will be forthcoming. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Tabled | | |
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| 7. DISCUSSION | Survey Methodology | |
| Ben has been working on a Survey methodology for organizing our efforts surveying the flats. This methodology is intended to randomize our selection of sites and to include all species in our ordinance under management. Kevin want to be sure that surveys are used appropriately and that there is an understanding that level of effort is at least as important and total quantity of resource in any given location. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Review plan developed | Ben | 3/30/21 |
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| 8. DISCUSSION | Mapping Plan | |
| No further action has been taken. | | |
| ACTION ITEMS | PERSON RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Tabled | | |
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| OLD BUSINESS | | |
| Landings: There is a website with all the landings data for all species. https://mainedmr.shinyapps.io/Landings_Portal/ | | |

NEW BUSINESS

Licensing: we have discussed splitting off a non-softshell license for the other species we manage, but currently we are not ready to propose that change. We need to gather further information. Kevin suggests we need to know some information about the quantity of those resources through more surveys, gather data from the recreational harvest survey, and landing reports for the various species. It was also suggested that the regional shellfish group is working on this issue as well and we should have an understanding of that work as well as any other towns in Maine that might be considering or have rejected such a plan. Judy suggested that we should make a plan for what we need to know in order to set a license level next year and work towards that.

Kevin also mentioned that we don't currently maintain the 10% rule for the Senior recreational licenses, currently we allow more than 10% of the licenses to go to Non-residents.

For this year, it was agreed that the we would recommend the same licenses as last year because of all the disruptions around Covid we don't really have any further information to assist us with making any changes. The 2020 landings data has not been released as of the meeting time.

Motion: *The shellfish commission recommends to the Town Council same allocation of licenses for the same categories with the same fees as we did in 2020.*

| Class | Subclass | Amount | Cost |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| <i>Commercial</i> | <i>Resident</i> | 4 | \$500 |
| <i>Commercial</i> | <i>Non-resident</i> | 1 | \$750 |
| <i>Recreational</i> | <i>Resident</i> | 50 | \$40 |
| <i>Recreational</i> | <i>Non-resident</i> | 5 | \$80 |
| <i>Recreational</i> | <i>Senior Resident</i> | 100 | 0 |
| <i>Recreational</i> | <i>Senior Non-resident</i> | 25 | 0 |
| <i>Recreational</i> | <i>3-Day</i> | 20/month | \$40 |

Moved: Judy Seconded: Ben Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Action: Forward to town manager to present to Town Council: Judy will do this.

Begin to work on language and plan for data gathering to determine potential alternatives species licensing. Judy will have the start of plan from the minutes for next meeting.

Conservation Time: There was a discussion about the lack of surveys this past year due to COVID. This will have an impact on commercial harvesters who participate in conservation points. It was determined that it would be fair to carry forward the same number of hours that were gathered in 2019 to the 2020 totals for the 2021 license discounts.

Conservation Time:

Motion: *All commercial harvesters will receive the same discount on their licenses for 2020 conservation credits as they earned in 2019 due to the loss of conservation opportunities because of COVID restrictions.*

Moved: Judy **Seconded:** Ben **Vote:** 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Potential Survey Dates:

| Date | Low Tide | Tide Level | Meeting Time | Meeting Location | Survey Location |
|----------|----------|------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| April 18 | 10:06 | +0.9 | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| April 24 | 3:33 | -0.2 | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| May 2 | 10:13 | -0.6 | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| May 8 | 4:05 | +0.7 | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| May 22 | 2:00 | +0.2 | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| May 23 | 2:56 | -0.1 | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| | | | | | |

These are potential Survey times; at the next meeting we will determine the survey locations and the meeting times. Meeting times are generally 2-3 hours before low tide. There will be at least two surveys planned for this year, potentially more if there is need and willing participants.

Next Meeting Date: The board would normally meet next on April 6 but members will be out of town at that time and therefore we would not have a quorum. The board has proposed to meet on March 30 at 7 pm. We will check with the town for a location and it will be advertised on the Town of Yarmouth website under <https://yarmouth.me.us/upcomingevents>

LPA Request: Mike Brown from Freeport came before the Shellfish Commission to ask for our approval and Harold’s signature on an LPA application. He is locating his LPA off of Lanes Island off the NorthEast of the island. The board had no objection to the location and Harold signed the application.

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| NEXT MEETING DATE | March 30, 2021 |
| MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE LOG CABIN. SOCIAL DISTANCING AND FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED WHEN MEETING INDOORS. | Agenda for Next Meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review Minutes 2. Warden’s Report 3. Elections of Officers (Chair/Secretary) 4. Survey Dates/Times/Locations 5. Regional Shellfish Meetings 6. Management Plan 7. Revisions to Grant 8. Licensing Discussion 9. New Business 10. Set Agenda |

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:30 pm