

Shellfish Conservation Committee Minutes

DATE 5/4/2021

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
P	Len Kaminow	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
A	Randy Bates	Town Council Liaison
A	Ari Leach	Dept. of Marine Resources

Guests/Diggers : Joe Delano

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 March 30, 2021

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

Agenda topics

1. DISCUSSION	Warden’s Report	
See attached.		
Will also noted that the town is continuing to move forward with the USGS study to understand the impact of dam removal. This is something that the committee is following and may have questions or comments as the process unfolds.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

2. DISCUSSION Running Tide Presentation		
Running Tide has withdrawn their project. See the attached warden's report.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
No further action		

3. DISCUSSION		Survey Results			
Date	Low Tide	Tide Level	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Survey Location
April 24	3:33	-0.2	12:30	Town Landing	Lower Cousins
May 8	4:05	+0.7	1:00	Town Landing	Lanes Island
<p>See attached survey results for April 24 survey.</p> <p>Used a 50 ft interval along the shore and 25 ft transect out from the shore.</p> <p>Spent time discussing the methodology, its value, and its weaknesses. Judy proposed that we should use the same methodology for the next three years in order to understand if it is providing us with better information than the previous survey methods. Kevin expressed the need for having an interpreted understanding of the survey results and resource availability from the harvesters. All agreed that both types of data are needed, experiential surveys could be done, where harvesters gave general knowledge about a particular area. Combining that over time with the sampling surveys would start to gather important information related to trends. Will asked if there was a way to encourage harvesters to share some general information about effort. Could we offer conservation points if someone was willing to share information. Perhaps a general area location, tides dug and bushels.</p> <p>This discussion will be continued at the next meeting. Judy will try to find out some information about what the liability issues are around hiring someone to do more surveys. She will also work with Nat to get a sense of our budget.</p> <p>Next month we will discuss and plan for Fall surveys.</p>					
ACTION ITEMS			PERSON RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Discuss liability and budget with Nat			Judy		June 1, 2021

4. DISCUSSION	Licensing Discussion	
<p>Since Ari was not with us this evening, we postponed the discussion.</p> <p>List of information we would need to manage this license. The following list is a first attempt:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All future surveys count all species in our ordinance. 2. 2 extra surveys done by Summer intern 3. Get landings data for all other species in our ordinance 4. Understanding of pricing of other species/cyclical, dependable? 5. Recommend that we agree to have at least one non-softshell license in 2022 so that we have someone harvesting those species in order to get a sense of the level of effort for return, can we add to that license a requirement to provide us with information on harvesting effort? 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

5. DISCUSSION	Regional Shellfish Meetings	
<p>Meeting postponed until next fall.</p> <p>There may be some offerings regarding survey methodology this summer.</p>		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

OLD BUSINESS	
None	
NEW BUSINESS	
<p>Next month: Discuss cancelling July & August meetings and reconvening in September.</p> <p>Grant application: next month we will discuss the plan for finishing up our 2019 grant looking at shoreline surveys and septic mapping.</p>	

NEXT MEETING DATE	June 1, 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 Minutes2. Warden's Report3. Survey Results/Fall Plan4. Grant Water Quality5. Licensing Discussion6. New Business7. Set Agenda

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:30 pm



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

May 4th, 2021 Shellfish Committee Report

Time Period: April 7th – May 4th, 2021

Day Locations Checked: 122

Night Locations Checked: 0

Contacts Made: 2

Worm Diggers: 0

Summons: 0

An emergency closure was put in place for the Cousins River out to Little John due to a sewer main break in Freeport on Route One near the Best Western.

Running Tide is going to hold off on a restoration project in Yarmouth for the time being. After conducting a study of the Whites Cove area, the information collected did not make them believe they were going to have enough success to move forward. I have asked them to share the information collected. They have not responded at the time whether they are willing to share that information or not.

Lower Cousins River Survey (04-24-21)

(6 hours credit)

Kevin Oliver

Ben Tupper

Branden Gibbs

52 Royal Rd NY

MPO Will Owen

Yarmouth Police Department

Softshell Survey Result

Softshell Survey data: 2020-05-08, Yarmouth, Lane's Island (south)
N plots: 58, Plot intervals: 25' x 50', Area: 1.7 acres
Abundance: 30.0 bushels per acre
Legally sized abundance (> 50mm), 28.4 bushels per acre

2020-05-08: Lane's Island (south)

Area: 1.7 acres, Abund: 30.0 bu/acre, Abund legal: 28.4 bu/acre

