

Shellfish Committee Minutes of the Meeting

DATE: August 18, 2010
TIME: 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.
LOCATION: MEAD Building

Shellfish Committee Members present:

Stuart Rapp, Les Hemmila, Matt Ostrowski, Gerard Ganey, Andre Sampou, Robert Lancaster, Richard Haskell

General Public present:

Christina Laurie, R. Scott Laurie, Richard Kraus, Norman White, Thomas White, John Nawoichik, Mark Lazzari, Mark Begley, Josh Ostrom, Gary Ostrom

NR Staff present:

Doug Kalweit, Tom Marcotti, Matthew Loo

Chairman's Report:

Stuart Rapp chaired the August 18th, 2010 meeting of the Shellfish Committee.

Natural Resources Report

Seasonal Shellfish Technician, Matthew Loo informed the Shellfish Committee of the status of the quahog propagation projects in the Three Bays. Matt announced that the "Joe's Grant" quahog propagation area in West Bay, and the "Handy Point" quahog propagation area in Cotuit Bay will be open to shellfishing. Matt reviewed recent shellfish propagation activities in the Three Bays utilizing volunteer assistance. Quahog seed from previous years projects are being harvested and free planted at various suitable shellfish habitats in the Three Bays.

Tom Marcotti informed the committee of ongoing oyster propagation projects in the Three Bays. Free planting of oysters at the Wianno oyster propagation area is about to get underway.

Tom informed the committee that the Harbormaster office has concerns with the shellfish aquaculture activities in Barnstable regarding compliance with certain shellfish aquaculture regulations. The Harbormaster office has concerns about navigational safety issues in the shellfish aquaculture area in the mid-west portion of the harbor.

Tom informed the committee that the area of Broad Sound that was closed for soft shell clam seed management purposes was reopened on August 16th, 2010. The Broad Sound area and vicinity will be closed to all shellfishing under an annual Division of Marine Fisheries shellfish management closure from September 15th, 2010 through December 14th, 2010.

Doug Kalweit elaborated on enhanced enforcement procedures for shellfishing. Andre Sampou offered the idea of volunteers performing enforcement. Doug informed the Shellfish Committee of the status of the Shellfish Propagation Revolving Fund to date: \$88,500. Doug informed the committee that, as of August 18th, 2010, 2,249 residential; 111 non-residential; and 48 seasonal recreational shellfishing permits have been issued. Doug announce that a public hearing for proposed amendments to shellfish regulations 407-3, 407-12A and 407-13 will take place at 9:00 A.M. on September 16th, 2010 at the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall. Doug informed the committee that Congressman Delahunt's office will hold a press conference for a stormwater remediation project at the Scudder Lane Landing as part of the federally funded "Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project".

Piers, Dredging and Shellfish Habitat Issues:

The Shellfish Committee reviewed the following proposed dredging application:

Applicant: Town of Barnstable, DPW Engineering Dept.
 Application: Dredging around the Cotuit Town Dock and deposit of dredge spoils on Dead Neck.
 Location: Cotuit Town Dock, 37 Oyster Place Road, Cotuit ,MA

Proposed Bay Street Recreational Shellfishing Area

The Shellfish Committee, Natural Resources, and recreational and commercial shellfishermen discussed the proposal by the Natural Resources office to make the Bay Street Relay Area (DMF/SC 23.20) a recreational “only” shellfishing area. The Bay Street Relay Area is the only relay area in North Bay near a public access way to water. Oyster propagation seasonally takes place in approximately half of the area for the benefit of recreational shellfishermen. The Shellfish Committee passed a motion to prohibit commercial shellfishing in the Bay Street Relay Area from November 1st through January 1st for this season.

Shellfish Aquaculture License Applications

The following shellfish aquaculture license applications were reviewed by the Shellfish Committee.

The Shellfish Committee reviewed, discussed and approved a motion recommending that the shellfish aquaculture licensed site application of Christina Laurie be approved by the Town Manager. The applicant’s proposed shellfish aquaculture site is located in Barnstable Harbor (site ng024; 2.0 acres). A public hearing for the proposed transfer application will be held on Tuesday August 31, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. in the Selectman’s Conference Room, Town Hall Building, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA.

The Shellfish Committee reviewed, discussed and approved a motion recommending that the shellfish aquaculture licensed site application of Richard Krauss be approved by the Town Manager. Michael O’Neil proposes to transfer his site to the applicant. The applicant’s proposed shellfish aquaculture site is located in Barnstable Harbor (site ng023; 2.0 acres). A public hearing for the proposed transfer application will be held on Tuesday August 31, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. in the Selectman’s Conference Room, Town Hall Building, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA.

The Shellfish Committee reviewed, discussed and approved a motion recommending that the shellfish aquaculture licensed sites application of Mark Begley be approved by the Town Manager. The applicant requests the shellfish aquaculture site boundaries and acreage of his existing site (NG029) in Barnstable Harbor be redefined, that the shellfish aquaculture site boundaries and acreage of a site in Barnstable Harbor previously licensed to Andrew Wood (license # 07-02, site: NG021) be redefined and the site transferred to the applicant and that the applicant be licensed shellfish aquaculture site (NG020) as a current recipient from the Town Manager’s “Barnstable Harbor Shellfish Aquaculture Grant Waiting List” All three sites would be combined into one site totaling 2 (two) acres, identified as site (NG029), and the applicant would be issued a new license for the combined sites for a period of 5 years. A public hearing for the proposed transfer application will be held on Tuesday August 31, 2010 at 9:15 A.M. in the Selectman’s Conference Room, Town Hall Building, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA.