

**TOWN OF SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS
SHELLFISH ADVISORY COMMISSION**



**MEETING MINUTES
Shellfish Advisory Commission
Wednesday, April 20, 2022
7:30 pm**

HYBRID/ Select Board Hearing Room at Town Hall and Remote via Zoom

Committee Members In Attendance: Chairperson; Susan Harrison, Vice Chairperson; Jeff Palmer, Waterways Liaison; Dave Friedman, Scott Connelly, Adam Bisol, Shellfish Constable; Mike Dimeo, Paula Lind

Chairperson Harrison made a motion to call the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Chairperson Harrison informed the board that the minutes from the last meeting would be voted on at the next Shellfish Meeting.

Update, Discussion, and Next Steps for Aquaculture Pilot Program

Chairperson Harrison started off by saying that Shellfish Constable, Mike Dimeo, and herself were able to meet with DMF and go through the Shellfish Advisory Commission's process with them. She stated that she took away from this meeting that they have been overthinking the acreage mapping. Ms. Harrison went on to say that the process that will happen is the DMF Scientists will come out to survey the area. She informed the board that the DMF is requesting a larger, unspecific acre, area, to look at for eelgrass, and then serve by the site. Ms. Harrison stated that they went and took back the maps provided by DMF and blocked off two spaces, totaling roughly ten acres, which will guide them to an appropriate area. She reported that DMF intends to do these surveys in late May or early June, stating that we're getting close to having a certified spot, with exact coordinates. She reported that from there, the committee can move on to the Town of Scituate's Selectboard for specific aquaculture sites. Ms. Harrison also reported that she and Mr. Dimeo spoke to DMF about the Town of Scituate's Shellfish Advisory Committee's regulations and some of the issues that have been brought to the board. She went on to say that a main issue brought up was the unloading at the Minot Beach parking lot, where DMF shared that other towns put in their regulations specific places allowed for unloading. Ms. Harrison also shared that in regards to debris on beach, DMF mentioned that other towns have included in their regulations that there is no over-wintering. DMF offered to look over the committee's regulations and provide feedback on where changes could be made to facilitate some of the issues that have been present.

Next, Constable Dimeo spoke on what he took from their meeting with DMF, also mentioning the over-wintering discussion, as well as the designating off-loading sites. He then spoke about the past conversation regarding having the safety buoys around the aquaculture area so that boaters aren't driving through it. Chairperson Harrison then shared the map that she worked up for the DMF with the board. Member, Paula Lind, suggested that committee members that can, attend the DMF survey, to which Chairperson Harrison agreed would be great. Ms. Harrison then mentioned a question that the board had received asked if the DMF ever comes back after they certify an area, to which the board discussed suggesting that the CSCR students monitor the area going forward. Next, landing site solutions were discussed, reiterating that over-wintering would minimize the issue of storms creating trash on the beach. The committee went on to say that there aren't already designated areas assigned so they will need to be added to the regulations. Mr. Friedman suggested not designating but rather excluding areas. It was also discussed that the committee should vote on the offloading and over-wintering changes once the DMF's recommendations are received. Chairperson Harrison mentioned that the committee has received three inquiries regarding acceptance of new applicants. Going on to say that this is something the board will have to discuss at some point, ideally after the science survey is complete and receiving the certified acreage. Constable Dimeo stated he doesn't find it fair to the first round of applicants, who have been waiting for almost two years, to allow additional applicants.

Scituate Resident, Dave Dauphine, of 356 Clapp Road, asked if the permanent aquaculture is restricted to oysters, to which the board answered it is not. Mr. Dauphine then asked when speaking about over-winterizing, is it referring to product, gear, or both. Chairperson Harrison replied that this is generally referring to both but not for long stakes at the end; meaning taking the bags and cages off but leaving the poles. Mr. Dauphine then mentioned that as far as the landings, lobstering and fishing are tracked for every move by the Federal and State levels. He expressed concern for wondering if there was a process of enforcement for other harvesters. Also wanting to make sure that the landing and access areas were two different areas being discussed. Constable Dimeo said that this is pretty strict and that he requests times and locations from all. Chairperson Harrison stated that asking DMF for recommendations on these things would be a good idea.

Mr. Friedman asked if the board would have number of farmers, number of plots and sizes of each plot ready for the next Shellfish meeting to get these recommendations to the Selectboard. Chairperson Harrison responded saying that the survey most likely won't be complete by then.

Update Recreational Shellfish Closure

Constable Dimeo reported that he had received an email today from Jeff Kennedy at Marine Fisheries, regarding the Scituate Wastewater Treatment Plant to help the wastewater in town. Going on to say that the evaluation proved good progress loading the model with environmental data and beginning to load three years of plant performance data. Constable Dimeo also reported that another progress report will begin in two weeks. He mentioned that current reports are coming back better than expected, yet still a slow process.

Public Questions and Comments

There were no questions or comments.

Chairperson Harrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., which was seconded by Adam Bisol and voted unanimously in favor (7-0).

Respectfully submitted, Alicia Anthony, Recording Secretary