



MEETING MINUTES

Scituate Shellfish Advisory Committee

Thursday October 24, 2019 6:30pm

Scituate Town Library Large Conference Room

Committee Members in Attendance: Jeff Palmer, Jamie Davenport, Susan Harrison, Mike DiMeo and Craig Rosenquist.

Committee Members not in Attendance: None

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: Shawn Harris

Also, in Attendance: Henry Yeh, John Mendlein, Gary Banks, John and Dienna Lehner, Bill McCullen, Mike Cotter, David Dauphinee, Peter Marathas and Sara Marathas.

This meeting was called to order by Susan Harrison at 6:35PM.

Vote to approve September 10, 2109 meeting minutes. All in favor of approval (5:0)

6:45pm Walk-On. Open Discussion: Scituate and Cohasset residents attended with concerns about recreational usage and view. The committee decided to address walk on concerns early in the meeting and modified the agenda to address resident's questions and concerns first.

Scituate and Cohasset residents attended with concerns with view (what would the farms look like) and recreational usage.

Shawn Harris gave a history of the Shellfish Advisory Committee in Scituate including the Scituate residents who have come forward with the idea of aquaculture in Scituate to the Board of Selectmen charge to form an Advisory Committee and then the formation of the Shellfish Advisory Committee in January.

Residents asked what is entailed in the farming? Jamie Davenport gave some background on what farming entails and that farmers are out on the flats around low tide during the weekday. Boats may go out at low tide to swap out, harvest oysters. Recreation and commercial

aquaculture currently work together in communities all over the south shore and the Cape. The goal is to enhance recreation and extend existing fishing culture.

Residents asked where the Advisory Committee was in the process. Susan explained that they had reviewed regulations and drafted proposed regulations for commercial aquaculture in all of Scituate Waterways. The regulations were presented to the Waterways Committee.

Residents asked, “Why do we need new business and aquaculture?” Susan explained that part of the Scituate Master Plan included new business and that aquaculture fits into existing Scituate business and the Massachusetts Blue Economy.

Residents asked about water quality and doubted that the area is approved for shellfish consumption. Mike DiMeo discussed the extensive water testing and sampling he and volunteers have done throughout Scituate waterways. Mike offered to take people out when he water tests in the future, if they are interested.

Residents asked about recreational usage specifically sailing and rowing. Jamie talked about commercial aquaculture coexisting with recreational usage. He explained that recreational usage like kayaking, paddle boarding, sailing and rowing coexist with commercial aquaculture on the Cape. Mike added that recreational lanes exist at mid-tide and allow more room for recreation.

Residents asked about an environmental impact study. Jamie explained that the state (DMF) scientists will go out and sample and review a proposed site prior to their approval of a site.

8:00pm Correspondence. The Shellfish Advisory Committee discussed a letter they received from Beth McGrath regarding recreational usage of Bassings Beach and Briggs Harbor. Susan drafted a response and the committee reviewed the letter and approved it. The letter included information regarding the depth of the water and equipment height, a better understanding of recreational usage, a better understanding of markers and buoys and shacks.

8:30 pm Walk On. None. Walk on was discussed earlier in the agenda.

8:30pm Craig Rosenquist made a motion to adjourn and Jeff Palmer seconded. All in Favor (5:0)

Respectfully Submitted by Susan Harrison