



MEETING MINUTES

Scituate Shellfish Advisory Committee

Thursday January 9, 2020 6:30pm

Large Conference Room

Scituate Town Library

Committee Members in Attendance: Jeff Palmer, Susan Harrison, and Craig Rosenquist.

Committee Members not in Attendance: Mike DiMeo

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: None

Also, in Attendance: Mike Cotter, Jamie Davenport, Dave Dauphine, Paula Lind, Charles Higginson, Debbie Shadd, Doug McLellan.

Agenda/Scheduled items:

Susan Harrison called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Discussion and Approval of November 19, 2019 meeting minutes. Jeff made a motion to approve and Craig seconded. All in favor (3-0) Approved.

Update and Discussion on Next Steps Regarding the Implementation of Commercial Aquaculture. Susan Harrison briefly recapped from the last meeting and reviewed the guidance given by the Board of Selectmen (BOS) regarding the scope of the aquaculture pilot. The BOS directed the Shellfish Advisory Committee to draft an application for shellfish aquaculture; selection criteria for grading the application submissions; a map 5-7 one-acre plots on the Briggs Harbor Map; and draft process and outcome measures to review the pilot program.

5-7 One Acre Plots. The committee started with discussing options for mapping out 5-7 one-acre plots using advice from the BOS to keep the acres as tight as possible but also allow for diversity of location. The Committee used post-it notes matching the to-scale size of an acre on the large map of Briggs Harbor. This allowed for better visualization and the flexibility to move the acre plots. The committee encouraged participation regarding

recreational usage from people who attended the meeting. Doug McLellan, Charles Higginson and Debbie Shadd offered insight regarding recreation in the Briggs Harbor Area including; hunting, kayaking, sailing and beaching boats for recreation on the sand area near the breakwater. The Committee agreed to suggest that the 5-7 one-acre plots be located such that recreation and aquaculture can coexist in the area.

Application. The Committee discussed the draft application which includes:

Validation that the applicant is 18 years or older. Please attach a copy of your Driver's license or other government ID.

Validation that the applicant is a **domiciled** resident of the Town of Scituate (see rules and regulations for definition). Requesting a copy of a document proving residence (Town tax bill, Utility bill, Driver's license). Adding a section to inquire if the applicant is a domiciled resident of Cohasset.

Validating that the applicant holds a valid Massachusetts Commercial Fisherman permit endorsed for shellfishing and requesting a copy of it. The Committee reminded people in attendance that the permit is not difficult to obtain and not expensive.

Requesting that the applicant describe their experience with shellfish, aquaculture, business or other water dependent activities, and any relevant educational or volunteer experience.

And, requesting that the applicant attach a detailed business plan with a description of proposed activities, including:

Site Plan: Provide a map and site plan. Include how you intend to access the site? (if by land, provide a description of the point of access including intended parking. If by water, provide a description of the type of vessel you intend to use and where it will be launched or moored, if private land please include written confirmation that the applicant has the right to access the land.)

Description of gear and approach: The proposed quantity and or culture devices to be deployed (include the dimensions of all proposed gear including, cages, bags, anchors, and lines, and a schematic of how they will be deployed on the site.) The proposed species, quantities, densities, and sources of shellfish seed to be planted, and a proposed farming plan (e.g., frequency of seeding, harvesting, etc.).

Funding: Include a description of funding.

In addition, the Committee discussed requiring letters of reference. Ultimately, letters of reference are important to determine if the individual or team would be able to work with abutters and the community. The Committee thinks it is important for the individuals selected to work with the community and to be like ambassadors to the community and the fisheries industry. The committee unanimously decided to advise the BOS to include three (3) letters of reference from non-family members and non-business partners.

Review Criteria: The Committee discussed and drafted proposed application review criteria including the applicant's and/or Partner's and/or Employee's Knowledge, Experience and Commitment with aquaculture and/or fisheries. The Committee suggested the following language be included in a description of the criteria: Provide explicit summaries of relevant projects completed by the applicant, partners and/or employees. Include related knowledge, experience and commitment: A) Knowledge, Experience and Commitment in shellfish aquaculture and/or fisheries and/or business, with preference given to local or regional knowledge. B) Knowledge and Experience with use and maintenance of fisheries and/or aquaculture gear. C) Knowledge and Experience working with residential abutters. D) Demonstrate understanding of regulatory requirements for running an aquaculture operation.

In addition to a detailed summary of knowledge and experience provided, the experience cited shall include examples of specific aspects that are especially relevant or can be applied to commercial aquaculture in Briggs Harbor/ Bassings Beach. Applicants can include relevant paid and volunteer experience. Full resumes of the individual applicant, partners, and employees shall be included as attachments to the submission.

The Committee unanimously thought that the criteria should be up to 5 points.

The Business Plan criteria were discussed. The business plan should demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of implementation (including at least a site plan, funding, description of gear and approach). The applicant should provide a summary of the business plan. In addition, outline the approach the applicant would take in implementing an aquaculture program including a detailed site plan, funding, and a description of gear and approach. In addition, innovative shellfish propagation and implementation strategies should be thought about and encouraged.

The Committee thought that the business plan was the "meat" of the application and that the maximum points should reflect that. Possibly 20 or 30 points. No decision was made on the amount of points to allow. Susan suggested that we finalize points at the next meeting.

References were discussed as part of the application. Letters of support would have to be from non-family members or business partners. It was suggested that a maximum of three (3) references with attestation of performance in relevant similar projects including business, fisheries and aquaculture as well as other relevant fields be required. The references would have to include names of the appropriate project contacts, email addresses, and current telephone numbers.

An interview or presentation was also discussed. Possibly 10 minutes with questions. Possibly, those individuals meeting the minimum qualifications and scoring well on items above (review criteria) will be asked to make an oral presentation to the selection committee and the BOS.

Pilot Review. The Committee discussed possible criteria for reviewing the pilot program. The science of if the oysters grow with possible testing for disease or other factors. We would also have to measure loss of gear or gear displacement. Other things to consider

would be the growers experiences and the community and recreational boaters experiences. Access would also have to be evaluated. Susan Harrison agreed to talk to Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research to see if they would be willing to assist with the pilot review.

Walk on: Dave Dauphnee asked the committee if they envision a pilot program if the North River or the Harbor opens? Susan Harrison responded that resources become a problem. While it could be a possibility, implementation and enforcement become an issue with the resources that we currently have. In addition, testing resources are a known a problem with not enough state lab resources.

Susan Harrison made a motion to adjourn. Craig Rosenquist seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm

Respectfully submitted by Susan Harrison