



MEETING MINUTES

Scituate Shellfish Advisory Committee

Thursday January 12, 2021 7:00PM

Audio Conference

Committee Chair, Susan Harrison read the Public Health Emergency Executive Order by the Governor effective March 12, 2020- Public meetings must meet remotely until further notice.

Scituate TV will be recording the meeting which will be viewable on YouTube

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

Committee Members in Attendance: Roll Call

Paula Lind, Jeff Palmer, Mike Dimeo, Adam Bisol, Scott Connolly, Susan Harrison, Chair

David Friedman was not present at the meeting.

Agenda Item #1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Adam Bisol made the motion and Mike DiMeo seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Lind: Yes

Palmer: Yes

DiMeo: Yes

Bisol: Yes

Connolly: Yes

Harrison: Yes

Agenda Item #2 Update from our November 18, 2020 meeting by our Shellfish Constable Mike Dimeo, on the North and South River closure.

Mike discussed the following items: the dilution dye studies in conjunction with the Sewer Treatment Plant, the FDA in reference to Briggs Harbor with a contact letter to the FDA and he also had an update on a suggested injunction.

After consideration he thinks that the injunction would not be a good idea at this point with the FDA. Mike is confident that the FDA is doing the best that they can. DMF is cornered and has been pressured by many areas in MA. The DMF has started testing by the Sewer Plant. This will take time.

Sampling was done today for two hours. Hopefully these fecal coliform tests will help make a case to reopen.

Brad White 149 Old Main Street Marshfield, MA

Asked for clarification of whether Mike was discussing the Marshfield Sewer Treatment Plant or Scituate. Mike confirmed it is the Scituate Plant.

Jamie Davenport 16 Booth Hill Road Scituate, MA

Questions Briggs Harbor update does dilution have to be done for the Cohasset treatment plant. Mike replied that he believes that the same testing will be done for Scituate and Cohasset. As far as the oyster aquaculture it is possible it could exist but not until the testing is done.

Mike explained that it is good the testing is being done. Each town should be reviewing the other towns data as well to see how the results compare. It is good to share all resources. Keeping the testing and communication will help in the re-opening of the rivers. Mike does not think that all the testing will happen this year.

Jeff Palmer from the committee asked Mike if there would be a possibility of extending the season. Mike said he would love to have the flats open September 1st but it's too early to say. It would be nice to just get back to what we had.

David Dauphinee 356 Clapp Road Scituate. David has been corresponding with DMF. David has reached out to Jeff Kennedy and Greg Sawyer from the DMF with little response to his questions. David stated that he doesn't hold any hope for the north river to ever open up for shellfishing again according to Kennedy and Sawyer. There is no schedule for dye testing.

David is pushing to move forward and was told that shellfishing should have been closed 8-9 years ago. But Dave pointed out that there has never been an illness reported from the Shellfish in the river.

David feels the river was closed because of lack of information and "not knowing". Does the FDA have jurisdiction over the shellfish and are they being used as a pawn? Do they have the right to do this?

Craig Rosenquist 17 Acorn Street Scituate, MA questioned will the North River ever open again? According to David Dauphinee it is his understanding that it will not open and perhaps sections of the South River may open.

Brad White agrees this is all part of the state's approach to just close. As a member of the Stellwagen Charter Operators Association he finds that writing a letter saying there's never been a problem in the river could help. We have over 100 license holders. There has to be a plan to not include closures. People clam recreationally and to feed their families. We need to have a voice from our group. His suggestion is to create a form letter to be sent to the state.

Susan Harrison questioned Mike on the timeline. It was mentioned that he would have the results within a week or two and would he be able to post those results. Mike clarified that these tests are not for the Sewer Treatment Plant these are the viral tests that are being done not for fecal coliform. Who gets the Sewer Treatment plant results? They come from the state lab and are sent directly to the Sewer Treatment plant. Susan asked Mike to follow up with the state to get those results.

David Dauphinee - Kennedy and Sawyer have offered to keep David posted on what is going on. They should have a more direct connection with Mike Dimeo or the Shellfish Advisory Committee according to Dave. Losing this activity during a pandemic is devastating to a lot of people.

Brad White. Asked David to share his experience with letters being returned etc. "No" is always a request for more information. The responses are going around in circles. You must continue to push. Waiting is not the way to handle this. Keep pushing. David fears it will be prohibited which we must prevent. There has never been evidence of e coli. The rivers harvest shellfish that must be cooked. There is no raw shellfish consumption.

Adam Bisol. Thanks, David for making his contacts. He observed that the DMF is being pushed by the FDA on this closure. There is no recourse from what he can see. Mike mentioned again an injunction against the DMF just to keep the status quo in place. We are protecting these licensed people. We need to spend more time with an injunction or perhaps a Class Action suit. They are shutting us down for a "potential risk."

David Dauphinee read a section of the meeting minutes from the 2019 ISSC report Basically, the FDA is in control. This is over our heads they should not be able to regulate this. Brad White stated that this is not a commercial area, and we are not shipping the shellfish. This is recreational. David has volunteered for 20 years, and this does not sit well with him.

Craig Rosenquist 17 Acorn Street, Scituate Are you able to get a license in Scituate?
Yes you can still get a license.

Mike stated He is a public official - David is a steward of the river and is able to research and make calls. Mike must follow the protocol.

Susan Harrison stated that she appreciates all of the rolls that people are taking. She is impressed that testing is being done.

David Dauphinee would like to see a letter from the Shellfish Advisory Committee requesting updates to the DMF to Kennedy and Sawyer. What is the plan?

Jeff Palmer Motion to adjourn at 8:20pm. Second by Susan Harrison

Roll Call Vote:

Paula: Yes

Mike: Yes

Adam: Yes

Scott: Yes

All in favor