

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



**MEETING MINUTES  
Shellfish Advisory Commission  
Wednesday, March 9, 2022  
7:00 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

**Chairperson Harrison made a motion to call the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.**

**Chairperson Harrison asked for a motion to be made to approve the February 16, 2022 meeting minutes with one edit, which was made by Jeff Palmer, seconded by Dave Friedman and voted unanimously in favor (6-0).**

**Update, Discussion, and Next Steps for Aquaculture Pilot Program**

Chairperson Harrison reminded the board that there were some follow-up items on the Aquaculture Pilot Program discussions. First being, from the invites, there have been a couple of correspondents. Secondly, six of the original nine applicants have responded with interest in moving forward. Lastly, steps to move forward now need to be discussed.

Chairperson Harrison relayed that DMF will come out to certify the site after the Selectboard approves of the location. She went on to say that DMF is using a new form for applicants that the committee will have to get the remaining six applicants to fill out. The board also needs to hold a public forum about the marked sites and get the decisions to DMF. Following DMF's certification, the site will have to go through a MEEPA Site Evaluation.

Waterways Liaison, Dave Friedman, asked if the permitting happen after the committee makes their decisions, to which Chairperson Harrison confirmed it would.

Scituate Resident, Mary Hawkins, of 38 Treasure Island Road, asked, as a committee, what are the recommendations on where farmers are going to be able to launch from Minot and where they are going to park. Ms. Harrison stated that the committee cannot advise on where applicants can park. Ms. Hawkins then asked if the town will assure there is room for trailers at whatever neighborhood its decided farmers will be launching from. Shellfish Constable; Mike Dimeo, stated that this would follow the laws of parking regulations within the town.

Scituate Resident, Maurice Millard, also from Treasure Island Road, stated that she doesn't find this parking plan to be realistic, and was under the impression that somewhere on the application, farmers were supposed to include how they were going to manage their businesses. Ms. Millard also expressed her concern of the possibility of the program working out well for farmers, but negatively impacting residents' enjoyment of the recreational areas. Chairperson Harrison agreed with Ms. Millard, going on to say that she thinks the board has discussed how they'll evaluate the pilot. Ms. Harrison added that the evaluation questions within the project weren't addressed previously, as they never got to the implementing stage. Chairperson Harrison then addressed Ms. Millard's concerns on parking, and suggested the board going through the applications to see which ones had listed Minot as their launching area of choice. It was also discussed that the Shellfish Advisory Committee does not have any control over the parking aspects of the project.

A Scituate Resident from the Indian Trail Neighborhood spoke up to say that he thinks the board needs to consider how applicants respond to how they're going to launch. The resident then mentioned that the location of the newly proposed spots is closer to children. Going on to say that there isn't anything on the application mandating the applicants, and their employees, to complete a query form, or background check. He stated that this was brought up in a meeting a couple of years ago and was told that this isn't a requirement. Chairperson Harrison replied that she will look further in to this and believes that at that time they weren't doing regulations as of yet.

Next, Scituate Resident, Jamie Davenport, of 16 Booth Hill Road, suggested the committee reach out to the Town of Duxbury, as they have a robust aquaculture programs that are close by to children's programs. Mr. Davenport then went on to say that he thinks he and his partner put Minot down on their application as their place of launch. He said that this was because he believed one could go out with a small, motor less skiff to check on a farm and has done so with his own boat.

Scituate Resident, Bill Graham, of 14 Tilden Ave, stated that he is looking for highlights of non-controversial areas. Chairperson Harrison said that the board would agree to take action with the state on this, going on to say that this will be the committee's next step. Mr. Graham confirmed that he is referring to the July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021/22 map

Ms. Hawkins spoke up again, referring back to the regulations, specifically asking if it was possible to add something along the lines of "noisy mechanized procedures being prohibited" to reduce the noise that nearby residents have to accept. As it is written currently, upon approval of the Shellfish Constable. Ms. Hawkins then brought up the section within the regulations under Docks and Floats, asking if there are size limits on these, as it currently states nothing about size of these structures.

Ms. Hawkins then referred to a section within the Town of Duxbury's regulations that talks about trash, shells, etc. not being allowed to be thrown overboard. She went on to ask that Scituate be more specific in this area as well, to which the committee agreed is a good addition. Waterways Liaison; Dave Friedman, brought up that during the pilot program, its expected that everyone will be learning as things go and from each other. Mr. Bisol added to that by stating that going forward, applicants will be required to re-apply, and ones that were not good stewards will not be accepted again.

Ms. Hawkins then asked her final question, stating that the properties on Treasure Island Road usually collected the most debris after storms. She wanted clarification on farmers retrieving anything of theirs that may have moved to these properties during storms, and the possibilities of hurting themselves in this process, asking how the owners of the properties could not be held responsible for any accidentals. It was then brought up that requiring aquaculture gear to be tagged may be beneficial so that residents could reach out to owners of missing property.

It was decided that the board would conduct a separate meeting to look at and discuss regulations, giving time to advertise for any residents that would like to participate.

#### **Update Recreational Shellfish Closure**

Shellfish Constable; Mike Dimeo, stated that he has been told that the gridding should be done by the summer. He then stated that the area was expanded to the South River, expanding it three/fourths, and decreasing tributaries which adds to more water flow. Mr. Dimeo added that SMS is also adding tidal forcing the new high-resolution domain, which is 10 millimeters and more complex. He also reported the UMass Dartmouth Biologist has also reported to him that things are going well.

It was decided, after several residents inquired, that Mr. Dimeo reach out to as the DMF what the anticipated next steps are to expect moving forward from July.

The next Shellfish Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2022.

**Chairperson Harrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m., which was seconded by Dave Friedman and voted unanimously in favor (6-0).**