



Shellfish Conservation Commission

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 26, 2017
6:00 PM – West Conference Room

Committee Members:

Michael Brown,
Chairman
Charles Adams
Jessica Joyce
Robert Maloney
Ralph Oulton
Harland Storey

Town Staff:

Tom Gruber
Charles Rumsey
Milton Calder
Jean Duchesneau

Members Present: Michael Brown, Chairman, Jessica Joyce, Charles Adams, Robert Maloney, Harland Storey, and Ralph Oulton,
Town Staff: Chief Charles Rumsey, Lt. Calder, Jean Duchesneau
Absent: Thomas Gruber

I. **Roll Call** Michael Brown called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. **Approval of the November 17, 2016 Minutes**

Motion: To approve the Minutes as printed.

Moved by: Harland Storey

Seconded by: Jessica Joyce to accept the minutes as presented.

VOTE: All Approved – Unanimous

III. **The possible inclusion of quahogs or other species in our ordinance**

Issue: February/March the New Meadows River was iced in and commercial harvesters came down to our shores off Route 88 to dig quahogs in the Broad Cove area by the sled full. It turns out that under our ordinance it is legal to do so. DMR mandated that we specify in our ordinance exactly which species we were legislating. We only have say over the soft-shell clam (*Mya Arenaria*). We do not have jurisdiction over the quahogs, mussels, oyster and other species down there. So the question now is, should we? Lt. Calder stated that after speaking with Mike of DMR and Tom Hale of Marine Patrol their thoughts were the loss of revenue for licenses and the equipment being left there unattended for periods of time. Mike stated DMR would not support an ordinance modification midstream if the sole desire of it was to restrict non-resident use and access to dig down there. For clarity: If we did it as part of our typical ordinance review cycle; we submit the recommendations in November, they approve them and we are allowed to do licensing in January; we would have to tweak the ordinance to include the species and there would have to be activity related to the conservation of the species. It can be something as simple as just the shellfish survey and counting the oysters (or type of species) you encounter on that survey. That would constitute adequate conservation activity from DMR.

Lt. Calder stated the town has one licensed commercial harvester. People dig quahogs routinely.

Pete Thayer stated our ordinance covers only soft-shell clams and all other shellfish is covered by state law. If we want to include all shellfish, then we would need to modify the definition of

shellfish to list all species individually in the ordinance.

After discussion, the committee decided to support the modification of the ordinance changes regarding the definition of shellfish, licensing, and to set digging limits on the species. Mr. Thayer stated he could offer assistance with sample ordinance language. Mike stated it looked unanimous to expand the ordinance and make updates to the language and clarify it going forward and that would be the committee's goal. More information will be forth coming.

IV. Solicitation for volunteers seeding

Terri Dane of DMR stated everything is meeting current classifications. She asked about how many boats were in the mooring field and Lt. Calder stated we have 4 applications and only one actual boat was put in the water in the BCR area. She stated if it becomes a hot spot for sailboats or boats with heads, she would have to put in a conditional spot around that because of possible discharge. She stated she will ask this each year and do site certifications and as long as it is 10 boats or less it would be okay. If it's more than 10, they would have to revisit it and make classification changes.

Teri reviewed the Water Quality Data Investigative Report with the commission and a general discussion took place regarding the results. Mike Brown stated half the flats were open and viewed that as a positive outlook for the flats. We are also awaiting confirmation from DEI that relates to seed. We have an order for 2018 and are on the cancellation list for 2017. Peter Thayer stated that a conservation closing can be put in place for seeding purposes. Mike stated we do not have a permit for netting through the Army Corp of Engineers, so we are looking at plant containers or broad cast with the incoming.

The schools are unable to assist with the seeding program at this time. Mike asked the committee if they had any ideas for volunteers. Jess stated she could probably get some kids together to help. Discussions took place as to where the seeding should be located; however, no definitive location was chosen at this time.

V. Monique Coombs of Maine Coast of Fisherman's Association

Cumberland flats have a lot of green crabs and ribbon worms. Monique Coombs of the Maine Coast of Fisherman's Association has a grant to conduct research on the ribbon worms and she would like to make contact with the various towns to collect data. The committee was okay to share their email addresses with Monique to assist with her research.

VI. New Business

There is a scoping session for a Standard Lease Application for commercial scallop aquaculture off of Sturdivant Island. The session date will be May 4, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Bryan Clement off Longmeadow Road also has an application for a recreational oyster aquaculture site. Tamara O'Donnell and Harbormaster Calder have signed off on this application.

Milton Calder has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2017. Chief Rumsey stated that the position will be co-shared by Officers Benjamin Burnes and Matthew Merriman. Peter Thayer stated the town clerk needed to sign the Annual Review Report as they could not accept Milton Calder's signature in place of the town clerk. Jean will have Tammy sign the

document and return it to Peter.

Peter also briefly stated that the State legislation has been active with various bills this session regarding municipal shellfish programs.

Next meeting date will be left open and scheduled as needed.

VII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 7:35 p.m.
Moved by: Robert Maloney
Seconded by: Harland Storey
Vote: All Approve - Unanimous