



Shellfish Conservation Commission MINUTES

October 12, 2022
6:00 PM – Council Chambers

Committee Members:
Michael Brown,
Chairman
Charles Adams
Robert Maloney
Ralph Oulton
Peter Garsoe
Peter DelBianco
Paul Sokoloff

Town Staff:
Tom Gruber
Charles Rumsey
Jean Duchesneau

Members Present: Michael Brown, Chairman, Peter Garsoe, Peter DelBianco and Paul Sokoloff
Town Staff: Chief Charles Rumsey, Jean Duchesneau
Absent: Charles Adams, Robert Maloney, and Ralph Oulton

I. Roll Call

Michael Brown called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. All members were in attendance except for Charles Adams and Ralph Oulton. Robert Maloney came to the meeting, but left once he knew we had a quorum, as he was not feeling well.

II. Approval of the September 8, 2021 Minutes

Chairman Brown asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the September 8, 2021 Minutes. In the Minutes under **ITEM III**, it was noted “**1 – Residential Non-Commercial**” was a typo error.

Motion: To accept the Minutes as presented with an amendment to Item III

- Correction:
Change “1 – Residential Non-Commercial” to *1—Non-Resident Commercial*

Moved by: Peter DelBianco

Seconded by: Peter Garsoe

Vote: All Approved – Unanimous

III. 2023 Shellfish Allocations

In 2022, the Town of Cumberland issued the following number of licenses:

- 64 – Resident Recreational
- 25 – Non-Resident Recreational
- 8 -- Non-Resident Recreational Monthly
- 1 – Resident Commercial
- 1 – Non-Resident Commercial

Chairman Brown stated there was not a completed shellfish survey in 2022, therefore we do not have any substantial alterations of shellfish population data.

A discussion took place regarding shellfish surveys, licenses, and if general information was being gathered from the diggers. It was decided to incorporate a voluntary form to give to license holders at the time of purchase to be completed and returned to the town. This

voluntary reporting form would contain information such as: the date, the digging time, the digging location, the shellfish harvested, how much was harvested as well as a “return by” date. The information contained in this voluntary form would give the committee more knowledge regarding the yearly harvest. A form will be created and distributed to members for approval prior to January 2023. Mike Brown will work with Jean to create a form.

Motion: To include a **voluntary reporting form** as part of the license packet and to have this form returned to the town by mid-September 2023.

Moved by: Peter Garsoe

Seconded by: Peter DelBianco

Vote: Unanimous

After a brief discussion, it was recommended to keep the 2023 license allocations the same as the 2022 year.

Motion: To retain the same allocation for calendar year 2023.

Moved by: Peter DelBianco

Seconded by: Paul Sokoloff

Vote: Unanimous

IV. **Shellfish License Fees**

Chairman Brown began the discussion of shellfish license fees. He stated the ordinance indicates that nonresidents cannot be charged more than double our town residents and the resident license fee is currently zero with a \$10.00 conservation fee charge. Peter Garsoe inquired how much money was in the conservation reserve fund and Chief Rumsey would check on that.

After a discussion, the following fees were recommended:

- Resident Recreational—Free with a \$10 conservation fee
- Non-Resident Recreational -- Free with a \$10 conservation fee
- Resident Commercial -- \$100 with a \$10 conservation fee
- Non-Resident Commercial -- \$200 with a \$10 conservation fee.

Motion: The fees for licenses in all categories remain the same in 2023.

Moved by: Peter DelBianco

Seconded by: Peter Garsoe

Vote: Unanimous

The committee would like to view the commercial digger(s) logs at the next meeting.

V. **New Business**

Peter DelBianco emphasized his desire to have the DMR flat information be publicly posted so residents can get the information easily and quickly whether that be through the harbormaster or through the website. The Chief stated that due to staffing and responding to calls, it would not be possible for the department to consistently post this information on a scheduled daily basis. However, on the town website (harbormaster page) there is a link to DMR, and the department has designed it to help decode the DMR information. Also, you can sign up for notices to be sent to you for the various closures. Chairman Brown offered to have DMR or a

shellfish working group come down to speak with the committee regarding the reading of the DMR open/closure maps and notices.

Paul Solokoff offered to contact Dan Deveraux of the Town of Brunswick to see how they get the information out to their commercial diggers and to invite him to come to speak with our committee.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn
Moved by: Peter DelBianco
Seconded by: Paul Solokoff
Vote: Unanimous

Submitted by,
Jean Duchesneau
Recording Secretary