

Members present: Mark Landers, Dan Martino, William (Billy) Alwardt, and Elizabeth (Betty) Mansure.

Others Present: David Grunden, Nicole Morey and Jason Mallory.

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM

Commercial Shellfish Permit Applications

Committee members reviewed and approved the following commercial shellfish permit applications:

- Eugene Brice
- Emma Green-Beach
- Isiah Scheffer

Previous minutes

Motion: To approve August 16, 2016 minutes. By: Member Alwardt. Second: Member Mansure. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Motion: To approve September 20, 2016 minutes. By: Member Mansure. Second: Member Martino. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Shellfish Constable Report

Constable David Grunden read his October 2016 report.

Member Martino said that the DMF told him that their oysters were clean.

Constable Grunden said that they have had no official notification from DMF.

Chairman Landers asked if the scallop boat was ready.

David replied yes.

Motion: To approve Shellfish Constable's October report. By: Member Mansure. Second: Member Martino. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

New Business

Review Commercial Shellfish License application

Members discussed the current application.

Motion: To delete numbers 13, 14, 15 & 16 and replace with Published Street List. By: Member Martino. Second: Member Mansure. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Motion: To delete "or lobster" from #25. By: Member Alwardt. Second: Member Martino. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Review Aquaculture Regulations

Member Martino asked that regulation #3 be changed as Conservation Commission does not require a Notice of Intent on a renewal application, only on the initial application.

Motion: To add to #3 “If is not a renewal”. By: Chairman Landers. Second: Member Alwardt. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Member Martino asked to revised #8 as Conservation Commission will renew their approval for five years and he would like to change the renewal to a longer period as it takes three years to grow a crop.

Motion: To leave #8 as written. By: Member Alwardt. Second: Member Mansure. Motion passed with Chairman Landers abstaining and Member Martino voting no.

Member Martino advised that the DMF requires that on any recall of shellfish that they must get rid of it so there is a conflict with #18.

Constable Grunden agreed that the DMF regulation has changed so the Town regulation does not agree with DMF regulation.

Motion: To add to #18 “unless it falls within the Commonwealth’s Division of Marine Fisheries guidelines”. By: Chairman Landers. Second: Member Alwardt. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Member Martino said #24 states “all gear, except buoys, must be submerged as not to interfere with boating passage” and they cannot submerge their raft where they work. He said he believes it was meant to exclude floating gear.

Motion: To add to #24 “except work platform and raft”. By: Chairman Landers. Second: Member Alwardt. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Comments

Member Mansure said that she would like to see a limit on how many aquaculture licenses are issued as well as the number of acres. She stated that they get bay scallops in the area while Cottage City Oysters isn’t a problem, there could be if more licenses are granted.

Member Martino said if there were bay scallops in the area, the State would have no allowed it.

Chairman Landers asked if she meant limiting acres or licenses as the State is encouraging aquaculture and felt the Town can only control the area.

Constable Grunden reminded the Committee that they make their decision on aquaculture permits on a case-by-case basis.

Member Martino said they might be another eight acres which would be a maximum at three more permits in that area.

Member Mansure would like to see more planning of the area as Edgartown has done. She is only concerned about the area off Eastville and would like a set number of permits allowed in that area.

Constable Grunden suggested going to the Planning Board and ask them to adopt zoning for water as Edgartown has done. It would be similar to land use zoning.

Members agreed that the issue needs further discussion.

New business

Member Alwardt said he would like to see something done about the boats anchoring all winter in Lagoon Pond as there is a rule stating they must move every three days. He also stated that they are in the middle of the channel.

Chairman Landers was concerned with people dropping anchors in different spots every few days. He wondered if the Town is collecting any money from them.

Constable Grunden said he contact Harbor Master about the issue.

Member Mansure mentioned that there is a wrecked raft on the edge of Lagoon Pond that belonged to 258 Newton Avenue that has been there almost two years.

Old Business Regulation 22c

There was not a full board to discuss changing the regulation.

Constable Grunden said that there is another diver this season.

Chairman Landers said he would like the regulation to remain the same as there is plenty of other areas in Sengekontacket Pond for dragging.

Member Alwardt said that there are 16 other commercial boats and only two divers.

There was a heated discussion regarding the regulation.

Constable Grunden opposes changing the regulation for this scallop season and should wait for full committee attendance.

He added that there have been six (6) boats and two divers currently scalloping in Sengekontacket.

Member Mansure said she would not like to see divers in the Lagoon Pond.

Seed scallop

Chairman Landers said that Edgartown has adopted the 2.5" ring as per the State regulations for the nubs but Oak Bluffs regulations it states that it based solely on the raised growth ring.

Constable Grunden responded it requires two things; a ring at 3/8" or greater and that it is 2.5". He said last year that they were many that were over 2.5" but did not have the ring.

Deputy Constable Jason Mallory added that a lot of the scallops that aren't very good this year most likely spawned again before dying off. He continued that Nantucket allowed people to take them and now they are regretting that decision as they haven't had as many scallops.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole L Morey
Shellfish Secretary