



TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS SHELLFISH COMMITTEE MINUTES Wednesday, October 11, 2023 - hybrid

Present: Vice-chair Fred Huss, Lisa Leonard, and Isiah Scheffer

Also Present: Deborah Potter, Thomas Zinno, Nicole Morey, Maura McGroarty (remote)

4:03 PM Vice-chair Fred Huss opened the meeting

Public Announcements - None

Department Head Report - None

New Business

- No new licensing applications
- Kyle Peters withdrew his request to increase commercial fishing days
- Constable and Harbor Master both not present to discuss mooring fields
- Constable not present to discuss any regulation changes

- Discussion and possible vote on creating Recreational Permits only sections

Vice-chair Fred Huss said that an area in the Harbor near the ECBC should be designated as Recreational only as older people can access it and the area is softer than other areas in the Harbor. Further discussion and vote will wait until next meeting.

- Discussion and possible vote to approve minutes from September 7 & 22, 2023

Member Scheffer advised that he did not attend the September 22nd meeting so he could not vote on them.

Vice-chair Huss made a motion to approve the September 7, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Member Scheffer.

Roll Call Vote: Huss – Aye, Leonard – Aye, Scheffer – Aye (**3 – Aye**)

Old Business

Discussion and possible vote to establish committees' priorities (at least 3) for upcoming year with the following:

- Review and discussion of Shellfish Department priorities and scheduling
- Review and discussion of Shellfish propagation and predation ideas
- Review and discussion of implementation of Constable/Committee member joint site visits regarding planting and releasing of seed

Vice-chair Huss felt that they were all good ideas and have never done in the past.

Member Scheffer would like to see next year's propagation plan. He is a big proponent of bay scallop propagation for recreational permit holders.

Vice-chair Huss mentioned that there was no quahog relay this year nor was there any steamers raised.

Member Scheffer said that steamer seed is hard to get especially with the Salem State facility closing three years ago. He added that after years of steamer propagation, they finally have a natural set in Chilmark.



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Vice-chair Huss also mentioned the high-water temperature being detrimental to the shellfish in the ponds.

Town Administrator Deborah Potter asked if there is other hatchery for steamer seed. Member Scheffer said yes and he would let Donovan know about them.

Discussion and possible vote to recommend ideas on new bounds established in Sengekontacket

Discussion and possible vote to recommend joint meeting with VH regarding dredging of flats by drawbridge

Town Administrator Deborah Potter advised that she had an informal meeting with Edgartown. She suggested a joint meeting between the two Shellfish Committees and Constables and what the effects have been especially this year and how do we resolve it. If a solution can be found at that level, then it would go up to the Select Board for their approval.

Vice-chair Huss made a motion to have a joint meeting between Edgartown and Oak Bluffs Shellfish Committee members and Shellfish Constables to discuss the town line in Sengekontacket Pond. Seconded by Member Scheffer.

Roll Call Vote: Huss – Aye, Leonard – Aye, Scheffer – Aye (**3 – Aye**)

Town Administrator Deborah Potter said that she found a document that discussed the survey line but there is no action taken with it. She said that there is no explanation with it but someone must have brought it up for discussion. There needs to be an agreement that both Towns can abide by as they need to work together on other projects such as dredging.

Members agreed that they really need to know if the line is correct.

Board of Health member Thomas Zinno asked if the mooring fields in Lagoon Pond had been discussed as he had concerns regarding the number of boats that were moored in Lagoon Pond between Lagoon Road and the hospital.

He was advised that it will be on the next meeting's agenda and it was being worked on. Member Scheffer is concerned that mooring checks will take the Shellfish Constable away from his other duties. Mr Zinno said that perhaps the Lagoon Pond Association could assist with paying someone to do the mooring checks. Ms Potter advised that the Constable and Harbor Master will be working on the mooring fields over the winter and the Town is in the process of hiring another person for the Shellfish Department.

4:31 pm Adjourn *Vice-chair Huss made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Member Leonard.*

Roll Call Vote: Huss – Aye, Leonard – Aye, Scheffer – Aye (**3 – Aye**)