

TOWN OF IPSWICH - MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Select Board
Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2021

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Select Board was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Members participated remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing.

Members present were Chairperson Linda Alexson, Brenda Turner, Charlie Surpitski, Wayne Castonguay, Peter Soffron and Sandi Corning. Also present were and Shellfish Constable LaPreste, and Recording Secretary Rodgers. Chief Nikas was not present. This meeting was recorded by ICAM.

Citizen's Queries: There were none

Constable Report:

Summer rain rules change for N7 begins June 10th.

Trapping for green crabs began on May 15th, delayed from April due DMF emergency regulations to protect endangered northern right whales. Constable said he will request a waiver to begin in April next year. Green Crab funding has ended as of July 1st, the FY22 allocated funds of \$27,000 will be available to trap green crabs.

Devon Winkler from the Division of Marine Fisheries recently tested water quality and confirmed there was no Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP), also known as 'Red Tide'.

Clam Landing Data Sets were provided by the Constable; he noted that the weights have been dropping off, he surmised it was due to the recent growth spurt in clams. He noted a jump in the estimated price, he thought it was due to COVID and people willing to pay more for clams.

Eagle Hill Landing:

Eagle Hill Landing is eroding and the Constable LaPreste suggested members think of a permanent solution to protect it. He described the erosion and opined that it's getting worse due to the rising sea level. He reported that if the file is closed with DEP, they will have to file with the Conservation Commission and it could take months. The ramp needs to be fixed soon. Discussion took place concerning the extent of the erosion.

Constable LaPreste will speak with DPW and report back at the next meeting.

Pavilion Beach Parking:

Chair Alexson initiated discussion related to the issue of parking directly on Pavilion Beach, instead of parking in the parking lot. Would the Board want to make a recommendation to the parks and cemetery or the Select Board?

Discussion took place. The Constable doesn't think it damages the beach.

Mr. Castonguay cautioned that parking on the beach is an illegal activity, all cars leak and one call to the Conservation Commission could close Eagle Hill to clamming. He urged the Committee to be proactive, take action, and prevent Eagle Hill from becoming a bigger issue.

Ms. Turner disagreed and said at times water covers the entire parking lot. The Constable said gasoline evaporates very quickly; fecal coliform is the concern [closes the flats]. Clammers parking on the beach has been going on for long time and there hasn't been any issues. Enforcement would be a police issue.

Lengthy discussion and debate took place. Signage was suggested for clammers to park on the beach at certain times of the year. The parking lot is packed and folks resent the clammers taking up two spaces with their trailers. Mr. Castonguay opined it's a huge risk. Parking on the beach vs parking in the parking lot; friction with recreational boaters. Designate an area for clammers in the parking lot.

It was decided to table for future discussion. In response to the Constable's request, Mr. Castonguay will provide more information concerning the Conservation Commission ability to enforce rules concerning no parking.

Shellfish Regulations - Definition of "Resident"

In the Shellfish regulations 'Resident' is defined "as defined by the Select Board". In 2009 the SAB discussed defining 'resident' and couldn't find the Select Board definition. The shellfish regulations were never changed. The regulations should provide specific definition for 'resident'. Currently, there is a list and an application requires two of any identifications from that list. After much discussion the members will review the definition in the Crane Beach regulations as an example. Ms. Alexson and Mr. Castonguay will work on it for members to consider at the next meeting.

Permit Fees:

Commercial permit fees have not been raised since 2005. When the permit fees were raised, it was a steep increase and most expensive in the region: \$250 to \$400 plus \$50 for the enhancement fund. Ms. Alexson reviewed the fees in surrounding towns for commercial and recreational. She opined that she would not support an increase in fees, at this time.

Discussion took place regarding raising fees; the State Environmental Police fines are capped at \$300 for each offense under State regulations. It's been fifteen years, fees could go up across the board. It was decided to make a decision after a review of the exact amount from residential revenue. Mr. Surpitski suggested the members review a detail of expenses and revenue. The members agreed to review an itemized budget, including the enhancement fund revenue and expense at a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Surpitski moved to approve the April 6th, 2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Turner seconded, the motion passed with a roll call vote.

New Business:

Ms. Turner spoke to her concerns for dangerous objects located in the water. One item is a pole that can be seen it as you are leaving Eagle Hill. It's only a foot under the water and it can put a hole in a boat and it can really hurt someone. It is one of the five hazards just in Eagle Hill. Constable opined it was public safety issue. Ms. Turner will follow up with Chief Nikas.

Ms. Turner then announced her resignation. Ms. Alexson extended gratitude for her dedication and service; and members echoed gratitude and well wishes.

Next meeting will be August 3rd, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed with a roll call vote to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved on August 3, 2021 with minor edits.

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law' the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting; the members present or absent; the findings made and actions taken. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion on any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.