

TOWN OF IPSWICH - MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Board to the Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
August 3, 2021

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Select Board was held on Tuesday, August 3, 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, Charlie Surpitski, Peter Soffron and Sandi Corning. Also present were Chief Nikas and Shellfish Constable LaPreste and Recording Secretary Rodgers. Wayne Castonguay was not present.

This meeting was recorded by ICAM.

Ms. Alexson announced the Select Board has decided to change the makeup of this committee; there will be one Select Board representative and an additional recreational permit holder.

**Citizen's Queries:** There were none.

Ms. Alexson related a query from Ken Purinton who asked about the town providing text alerts to clammers on their cell phones, when the flats are closed. Discussion took place, currently the town does not have the capability to provide such a service. Constable LaPreste suggested that all permit holders stay informed by calling the 'hotline' every day.

**Green Crab Trapping Program - State Funding**

Ms. Alexson welcomed State Representative Brad Hill, who spoke about the state funding for the green crab trapping program. Two weeks ago, Governor Baker signed the budget for APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for marsh restoration and revitalization, including, but not limited to green crab trapping program.

The State recognizes the importance of this program; DMF, shellfish and environmentalist are working together to determine how funds will be distributed.

Representative Hill also mentioned the federal government program, to provide funding to clammers who lost opportunities to harvest clams during the pandemic. Constable LaPreste noted there will be a workshop in Gloucester to help folks who have questions.

Chief Nikas will send an email tomorrow and secure funds for the town's green crab trapping program.

**Constable Report:**

Constable LaPreste reported the flats were closed the whole month of July; on the 15<sup>th</sup> flats were closed due to red tide, which is uncommonly late in the season. On July 29<sup>th</sup> N4 reopened, and N7 still closed. The green crab trapping program trapped 28, 240 pounds. As of July 1<sup>st</sup> there's \$22,000 and some of it will be held over, to be used next spring. Constable indicated that there are two people trapping. Discussion ensued on the subject of soliciting more participation.

Ms. Alexson asked about the private aquaculture grant, Constable reported Gary Zebleski has been signed off by all the State agencies and the grant has been staked off. He will ask Mr. Zebleski if he would be interested in attending a meeting and share his experience.

### **300-lb. commercial harvest limit**

Ms. Alexson reviewed the temporary 300-lb. commercial harvest limit which expires October 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion took place regarding a recommendation to extend the limit, or not.

The price is highest it's ever been; the Constable related that he has not seen the full 300 pounds at the landings. There has not been a down turn in harvesting shellfish, since the trapping of green crabs. Member agreed to extend the 300 pound limit for another year.

### **MOTION:**

**Mr. Surpitski moved to recommend, the Select Board vote to extend the temporary 300-lb. commercial harvest limit for one more year 10/1/21 to 10/1/ 22. Ms. Corning seconded, the motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.**

### **Increasing the Permit Fee**

Ms. Alexson reported that financial information from Finance Director Sarah Johnson has not been available, due to her absence. Topic was table to the next meeting.

### **Shellfish Regulations - Definition of "Resident"**

Ms. Alexson related that she and Wayne Castonguay, suggest returning to the definition of 'resident' from a previous time, with four forms of identification.

Discussion took place regarding the best combination of identification. Topic was table to the next meeting and draft language will be provided.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

### **MOTION:**

**Mr. Surpitski moved to approve the June 1, 2021 meeting minutes with minor edits. Mr. Soffron seconded, the motion passed with a roll call vote.**

### **Old Business:**

Chair Alexson initiated discussion and recapped the initial complaint from recreational beach goers concerning parking on Pavilion Beach, instead of in the parking lot.

The Constable opined it was a non-issue. Chief agreed, sunk boats with 80 gallons of gas in not an issue with DEP. Suggestions made were to use signage about the use of that area by clambers; signage for parking by clambers trailer and trucks; maintain a designated launch.

It was agreed to keep in on the radar, monitor and get to the heart of the problem.

### **Next Meetings:**

Tuesday October 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>.

It was moved, seconded and with a roll call vote, it was unanimous to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Rodgers

Approved on 10.13.2021

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.