

Shellfish Committee Minutes

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Peter Robbins, Jen Skala, Don Smith, Tom Fraser

Also present: Courtney O'Donnell, Town Manager; Lesley Cosmano, Selectman

Absent: Michael Varonne

Election of Officers:

Chairman: Don Smith

Vice Chair: Jen Skala

Secretary: Delayed until May meeting

Approval of Minutes: Moved, seconded, unanimously approved Minutes of August 25, 2015

New Business:

1. RSU #20 Project Proposal – Dawn Staples-Knox presented information regarding school children working with Dr. Beal, noted marine research biologist, on the growth and survival of cultured soft-shell clams in flats of Stockton Springs Harbor area. The work day is set for May 18th with a rain date of June 2nd. A total of 90-100 kids will be involved in the project. The Committee suggested the Harbor as the most accessible location for the field experience because of the area needed to park a school bus. Specimens will be harvested, and data recorded and then presented to other students, parents, community members, and town officials during a school assembly. The committee members unanimously voted in favor of recommending to the Select Board that permission be granted for the students to carry out this planned activity.

There was a lengthy discussion on whether or not to expend monies from the Shellfish Town Account for the school project. It was decided by a 3-1 vote that such monies would not be spent at this time.

Mr. Fraser said he has made six more clam baskets and will be bringing them into the Town Office.

2. Review of Annual Report: Ms. O'Donnell asked that all committee members read through this document carefully as it addresses the duties and responsibilities of the membership. A discussion of the document will take place at the May meeting.

3. Discussion of Potential Activities/Projects:

A. The committee members were in full agreement that the people purchasing a clamming license should be willing to help with the care of the clam beds. To this end, Jen Skala volunteered to create a few posters for committee approval at the May meeting. The intent is to use the posters to solicit volunteers for a 'work day'. The target date for this recruiting is June 1st, while people are waiting in line to purchase their license.

B. Mr. Robbins asked about the results of the DMR water testing regarding water quality. Jen volunteered to contact DMR for information. Ms. O'Donnell will check with Darrin Moody to see if he has received such a report.

Other Business: None

Public Comments: None

Next meeting date: May 18, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lesley Cosmano, Acting Secretary for this meeting.