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TOWN OF IPSWICH - MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2019

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Select Board was held on Tuesday March 5, 2019 in room A of the Ipswich Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Chair Linda Alexson, Michael Lambros, Brenda Turner, Wayne Castonguay and Nishan Mootafian. Also, present were Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste, Chief Paul Nikas and Recording Secretary, Marie Rodgers. David Swicker was not present.

This meeting was video recorded by ICAM.

Ms. Alexson introduced Chris Bevilacqua, Executive Director of the YMCA, who presented a comprehensive overview of the YMCA services, programs and offerings to clambers and their families. He described the facility and scope of community services, listed many amenities and how they may serve the clamming community.

When asked about discount memberships for Ipswich clambers and families, Mr. Bevilacqua replied, yes, assistance is available for families that qualify. He encouraged conversations about how to support clambers.

After a brief discussion it was agreed to send off a letter created specifically for Clammers; Constable LaPreste will provide a list of names and addresses. Mr. Bevilacqua thanked the members for their time.

Citizen's Queries:

Roger Warner appeared before the Committee and asked who he could speak with in Town to support a green crab enterprise. He submitted a rudimentary hand drawn pyramid showing the hierarchy of green crab products. He spoke to his goal of producing a viable commercial product from green crabs and his desire to have a conversation with someone from the town to explore options for financial assistance for the development of a green crab industry.

Discussion followed, municipal monies would not likely support private enterprise. Suggestions were made to reach out to seafood dealers all along the coast. Further discussion took place concerning lower cost solutions would yield higher profits for the trappers. Mr. Warner pointed to the new cookbook of green crab recipes to demonstrate how serious the Green Crab R&D Project is; he provided a copy for the committee. Mr. Castonguay will work with Mr. Warner and explore options and possibilities.

Constable Report

Constable LaPreste reported data sheets will be next month. The new deputy has been hired and will start next Monday; he will be introduced at the April meeting. There were 16 commercial licenses available and 13 applicants; 3 people are in line and will be addressed after April 1st.

Green crab trapping program

Constable LaPreste said applications for trapping green crabs are available at the police station from March 12th to the deadline of March 22nd. Five trappers will be selected on March 25th, then an orientation meeting will take place; trappers will start trapping on April 1st. The Select Board will vote next Monday on shellfish matters for funding the green crab eradication program.

MOTION: Mr. Lambros moved to recommend the Select Board vote to transfer \$10,000 from the Shellfish Enhancement Fund to the green crab trapping program for FY19. Mr. Castonguay seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Alexson requested the Committee reaffirm the vote taken at the February meeting concerning the price per pound.

MOTION: Mr. Lambros moved to recommend the Select Board vote to pay green crab trappers \$0.40 cents per pound for the upcoming trapping season. Mr. Mootafian seconded the motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Constable suggested that the shellfish rules and regulations be amended to reflect the amended General Laws, Chapter 130, section 52 to prohibit towns from charging veterans a fee greater than the fee charged to a resident. Discussion will be on the April agenda.

Old Business:

In response to Ms. Alexson's query concerning the aquaculture grant; Constable LaPreste said he would look into it, the grant (from April 2017) is still waiting for State review.

In response to Ms. Alexson's query concerning neoplasia; Constable opined that it doesn't seem to be as prominent; he added that we'll know more this summer.

Enhancement fund- Chief Nikas reported the current balance is \$28,273; two years ago it was \$23,000, so it's tracking about the same.

► Ms. Alexson initiated discussion regarding clam seed donated from CAT Cove. Constable said he is not accepting any seed. A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that going forward, prior to accepting any seed, the Committee will be notified reviewed on a case by case basis.

► Ms. Alexson initiated discussion concerning written procedures, not covered in the regulations, which Constable LaPreste was going to generate. Constable LaPreste indicated that there is a job description and opined that more wasn't necessary. He suggested that it was more important to learn the water bodies. His goal is to train the deputy to learn the entire job. He noted that the Harbor Master is well versed in the rules and regulations.

► Mr. Castonguay asked about the status of the river dredging and whether this has come before the committee. Chief Nikas reported on a recent meeting of the North East Coastal Coalition (includes communities from Manchester to Salisbury). A feasibility study will determine the issue of towns sharing the cost of dredging equipment. The Select Board will be updated by June 2019j and SAB will be noticed.

Approval of minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2019 meeting. Ms. Turner seconded, the motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

► **Next Meeting** –Tuesday April 9, 2019 @ 7:00 PM in Room A.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously vote to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

These minutes were approved on April 9, 2019.