

TOWN OF IPSWICH - MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Select Board
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2021

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Select Board was held on Tuesday, March 9, 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, Nishan Mootafian, Brenda Turner, Charlie Surpitski and Wayne Castonguay, Sandi Corning. Also present were Chief Nikas and Shellfish Constable LaPreste, and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers.

Peter Soffron was not present.

Citizen's Queries: There were none

Constables report:

The Division of Marine Fisheries has enacted emergency regulations to protect endangered northern right whales.

All traps, lines and buoys are prohibited until May 15th. Discussion took place concerning impacts on trapping green crabs.

The Constable opined it's not a big issue to start trapping green crabs after May 15. He will look into exemptions for trapping green crabs if the regulations continue next year.

Discussion took place concerning the Environmental Police conducting spot checks. Constable warned to keep up to date on licenses, tags and vehicle inspections.

Chief Nikas reviewed the application period for green crab trappers; price per pound for green crabs; and use \$12,000 from the enhancement fund for green crab trapping.

MOTION:

Mr. Castonguay moved to recommend to the Select Board application period open from March 15 to March 26 with decision made the week of 29th of March. Mr. Mootafian seconded, the motion passed with a roll call vote.

MOTION:

Mr. Surpitski moved to recommend to the Select Board to set the price at forty cents per pound of green crabs. Mr. Mootafian seconded, the motion passed with a roll call vote.

Chief Nikas reported a balance of \$32,000 in the enhancement fund and recommended \$12,000 to subsidize the green crab eradication program

MOTION:

Mr. Mootafian moved to recommend to the Select Board provide \$12,000 from the enhancement fund for the green crab program. Mr. Surpitski seconded, the motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Constable spoke of the positive results from trapping green crabs and related his observations showing up in the clam flats. He stressed that green crab trapping is the most important thing the town can do and needs to continue. Discussion took place concerning surrounding towns, which do not have trapping programs. Constable offered to hold another informational presentation and inviting surrounding towns and State Representatives.

Mr. Castonguay introduced resident Anna Gibbs, a recent Harvard grad and free lance writer. She is gathering information to write about green crabs. Constable spoke to the green crab trapping program in Ipswich.

► **Approval of minutes:**

MOTION: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 2, 2021. Mr. Castonguay seconded, the motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

New Business:

Ms. Turner asked the Constable about the rain gauge; people want to know how often the State checks it. Constable related the process. There are two gauges in town, the state does not supply the rain gauges, nor do they calibrate the gauges. He calibrates them once a year, there is no formal protocol required. He keeps records in case of an audit by DMF.

Ms. Turner initiated discussion concerning a new island in N7. Constable said clam flats are changing all the time. He spoke to town lines running down the middle of rivers and creeks. The shellfish boundary is determined by the channels and it is very common for channels in the rivers to shift. He described flats shifting and boundary lines past boat house reef.

Ms. Turner spoke to the issue of transaction cards, bed certificates in Ipswich, issued to recreational diggers who can then sell clams without a commercial permit.

Shellfish regulations definition of “Resident”: “as defined by the Select Board”. The Town Clerk has a definition for a ‘resident’; their name is required to be in the town census, a Massachusetts vehicle license with an Ipswich address and auto registration with proof of excise tax paid to the town.

Ms. Alexson suggested a definition be added to the shellfish regulations. Discussion will be added to the April agenda.

► **Next Meeting** –Tuesday April 6, 2021 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed with a roll call vote to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved on April 6, 2021

<p>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</p>
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