

TOWN OF IPSWICH
MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Select Board
May 14, 2020
Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Select Board was held on Thursday, May 14, 2020 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, Nishan Mootafian and Sandi Corning. Also present Recording Secretary Rodgers. Peter Soffron, Chief Nikas and Constable LaPreste were not present.

Citizen queries: There were none.

Student permit recommendation

Ms. Alexson explained the Select Board allowed all three students to receive licenses, extending the cap of five to six. Last week the Select Board received another request and this meeting was called to provide the Select Board with a recommendation. Ms. Alexson read a letter from the Paul Nikas, Police Chief, who supported raising the student license cap (hereby incorporated by reference).

Discussion took place and the general consensus was agreeable to extend only for this year, considering the circumstance of the pandemic.

Mr. Castonguay voiced his concerns, while he agreed these are economically difficult times, he opined it could have major ramifications of this, making the rules meaningless. He spoke to a snowballing effect of the student season extended from three months to six months, a 300# harvest limit combined with massive abuse. He spoke to the possible increase of Neoplasia. Ms. Turner disagreed saying she knew students who were lucky to dig 100#. Ms. Alexson said if there's abuse out there, it's an enforcement issue and the Chief should be made aware.

Mr. Castonguay suggested when the Select Board is faced with these issues it should be standard procedure to table it and send it before this board for a recommendation.

Discussion took place concerning the current circumstances and lack of work, increasing the student cap to eight or ten; process for students to get their application in; having an absolute end date of June 1; town hall will re-open May 18th.

MOTION:

Mr. Mootafian moved to recommend the Select Board increase the student permits limit to eight, for this year 2020, due to extraordinary current situation; subject to application deadline of June 1, 2020. Ms. Turner seconded; the motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Process and procedure were discussed and it was agreed the permits would be first come, first served as stamped in with the town clerk.

Survey for Commercial Permit Holders

Ms. Alexson reported that there were 49 survey responses. Some held insightful and thoughtful responses. She has organized them in a spread sheet and will share with the members for discussion when the Board is able to physically meet at a future time.

Old Business:

Ms. Alexson intends to attend the next hearing for the Rowley Oyster Farm proposal on to June 28th. She would like members to provide questions and concerns to share. She will ask Constable LaPreste to ask the Constable of Rowley to find out about the proposed plan.

Old Business:

Next Meeting – June 2, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Video Conference.

Adjourn - It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted by roll call to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
~Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved June 2, 2020.

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.