

TOWN OF IPSWICH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Select Board  
June 2, 2020  
Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to a written notice posted by the Town Clerk a meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Select Board was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. members' participated remotely utilizing Zoom video conferencing. Tuned in were Chairperson Linda Alexson, Brenda Turner, Wayne Castonguay, Nishan Mootafian and Sandi Corning and Peter Soffron. Also present, Shellfish Constable LaPreste, Chief Paul Nikas and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. Charlie Surpitski was not present. ICAM Video recorded.

**Citizen queries:** There were none.

**Shellfish Constable's Report**

- ▶ Constable LaPreste reported as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, summer rain rules apply to all of N7; closed for five days when it rains more than 6/10<sup>th</sup> of an inch.
- ▶ Boat House Gate will be closed until Labor Day (it's used for access to N7)
- ▶ The Select Board approved the SAB recommendations that allow recreational digging on Clark Beach on Sundays, provided N4 is not closed for any reason. Also, the task program has been suspended for this year.

**Green crab trapping update**

Trapping was delayed this year due to the pandemic. Trapping began on the 18 of May; \$2100 was spent to trap approximately 5000 pounds of green crabs. The Select Board approved to use up to \$12,000 from the Enhancement Fund for FY 20. \$5000 is left over from last year, and will be spent first, between now and the end of June.

The Constable asked the Committee to discuss allocation of enhancement fund of \$12,000, to trap green crabs for FY21. He doesn't foresee any money from the State.

The Enhancement fund is the main source of funding; the balance is approximately \$33,000 without this year's new permits. The green crab budget for FY21 was cut from \$20,000 to \$15,000, it's enough to get us through to next Spring, which is the most important time to capture green crabs.

Discussion was held regarding the location of green crab traps. Constable indicated that currently, there is only one trapper covering N4. The volumes are not as prolific as last year. There are lots of big males particularly in Pine Creek and estuaries of Plum Island.

**Student permit update**

Ms. Alexson related that after the last meeting, the Select Board approved two more student permits. The eighth one was approved last evening, with the conditions that all paperwork and fee are submitted by June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Alexson related that the Select Board understands when there are requests beyond the cap, the applications will go to the SAB first for a recommendation.

Chief Nikas said he has received two requests for provisional licenses within the last ten days. He notified one that none were available. The Constable will reach out and respond to the other request. He opined the possibility of bootlegging escalating and urged the Constable and Deputy to keep a watch for increased illegal activity.

In response to Mr. Castonguay, no response has been received from DMF concerning the letter sent about commercial permit transaction cards.

### **Rowley aquaculture project**

Ms. Alexson reported she had expected to attend the June public hearing for the Rowley aquaculture project. However, unbeknownst to her, it was held last week and the Rowley Selectmen approved the oyster aquaculture project with recommendations from the harbor master. She listed the eleven conditions (hereby incorporated by reference)

Lengthy discussion took place concerning the lack of regulations in Rowley for private aquaculture farms; no controls for seed source; concerns about vibriosis infecting humans; it is unknown if plans are available; environmental concerns, enforcement issues. Constable related it is located at the mouth of the Rowley River, fifty yards from the area which was a duck camp at one time. Town line runs down the middle of the river, on the Ipswich side there's a flat called High Ground, where the currents there can place lots of stress on the cages. Encroachment over the Ipswich line is a concern. Constable said there's a proposal for an upweller and to use seed already available in the area.

It was suggested Ipswich coordinate communication among the all towns along the entire estuary with regards to aquaculture and green crabs.

It was agreed to invite the Rowley aquaculture applicant to the next meeting for a presentation. If they don't attend, questions and concerns could be forwarded.

### **Harbor management plan update**

Mr. Castonguay and Mr. Soffron reviewed the outline for a Waterways Management Plan. (hereby incorporated by reference)

### **New Business:**

Constable LaPreste requested a recommendation to the Select Board for \$12,000 to support the green crab trapping program from the enhancement fund for FY21.

#### **MOTION:**

**Mr. Castonguay moved to recommend to the Select Board the appropriation of \$12,000 from the enhancement fund for FY21 for the green crab eradication program. Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.**

### **Approval of minutes**

#### **MOTION:**

**Mr. Mootafian moved to accept the May 5, 2020 minutes. Mr. Castonguay seconded and the motion passed with a roll call vote. Soffron, yes; Corning, yes; Mootafian, yes; Turner, yes; and Alexson, yes.**

**MOTION:**

**Mr. Mootafian moved to accept the May 14, 2020 minutes. Mr. Castonguay seconded and the motion passed with a roll call vote. Mootafian, yes; Corning, yes; Turner, yes; and Alexson, yes, and Castonguay, yes.**

**Next Meeting** - Tuesday August 4, 2020

**Adjourn**

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

~Marie Rodgers

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.