

TOWN OF IPSWICH - MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Select Board
Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2022

A meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Select Board was held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 in room A of the Ipswich Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Chairperson Linda Alexson, Charlie Surpitski, Wayne Castonguay, Peter Soffron and Evan Orlando. Also, Shellfish Constable LaPreste and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. Police Chief Nikas and Michael Walker were not present with prior notice.

Citizen Queries: There were none.

Constable Report: Four people were selected for the green crab trapping program. \$2000 remains in the green crab trapping fund. In response to Mr. Surpitski suggestion, Constable LaPreste will provide a year-end report, suited for publication in the local newspaper.

Summer rain rules; N7 area closed for five days after a.06 inches of rain or greater; this is a State rain rule.

The task program continues. There have been a few individual tasks and one organized event is coming this weekend. In response to Ms. Alexson, Constable LaPreste agreed to provide an activity report by the New Year.

Constable announced that his deputy constable has retired at the end of May. He thanked him for his help. He will be missed. He expects a replacement by July; meanwhile he will minimize his time off.

Discussion was initiated by Mr. Castonguay regarding rumor of over harvesting again, at Pine Creek. Constable LaPreste will keep an eye on it. Further discussion took place regarding federal refuge enforcement, penalties and fines for violations.

Mr. Soffron reported on his observations of an amphibious vehicle driving over clam flats. He noted that there used to be "no trespassing" signs. Constable LaPreste said it's not a shellfish violation and there's nothing he can do; it's a Harbors issue.

Ms. Alexson suggested signage to be placed at Pavilion Beach with information regarding flat status and harvest dates. Discussion was held and the Constable will find a way to attach an additional sign. Ms. Alexson noted that no one is to park on the beach.

Definition of "Resident"

Ms. Alexson submitted a copy and read the proposed definitions for "resident" and "summer resident". Discussion took place regarding clarification for the current census. Also, should a permit be denied, there is nothing in the regulations regarding process of appeal. It should be in the regulations that appeals would be made to the Select Board. It was noted that the "right of appeal" is a blanket process for all decisions rendered by the town.

Mr. Surpitski suggested additional language under #1. Name on town census that is in effect at time of application.” The Town Clerk should be confirming applicants are on the current census before new permits are issued.

MOTION: Mr. Surpitski moved to recommend that the Select Board amend the regulations as indicated in the draft document with the edits made tonight. Mr. Castonguay seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Permit fees

After discussion regarding the shellfish department budget and accounting for the town’s \$15,000 annual contribution to the green crab trapping program, along with current inflationary issues, it was recommended that the topic of raising permit fees be suspended for the time being.

MOTION: Mr. Surpitski moved to suspend discussion relative to fees until it is further defined relative to the \$15,000 contribution that the town makes to the shellfish green crab fund. Mr. Castonguay seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

▶ Mr. Soffron asked about the harvest data. Constable LaPreste will send it to Ms. Alexson and she will forward it to everyone.

▶ Mr. Soffron will follow up with Chief Nikas regarding a letter to companies that lease amphibious boats.

▶ Mr. Soffron related his observations of metal junk in the estuary, which he almost hit. It can be seen at the channel entrance, at negative tide. Constable LaPreste said it’s not a shellfish issue, but he will ask Harbors to remove it.

▶ Ms. Alexson reported that the Select Board approved the “shellfish gift account” earmarked for green crab trapping and equipment purchase.

Documents and exhibits used by the Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee to the Select Board: one-page FY23 Operating Budget and two pages amended definitions for ‘resident’ ‘summer resident’ ‘section 3- commercial permits’ and under ‘family permits’ for the regulations.

Approval of minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Castonguay moved to approve the April 5, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Orlando seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting –Tuesday August 2, 2022 @ 7:00 PM in Room A.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved with minor edits on August 2, 2022.

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.