

TOWN OF IPSWICH
MASSACHUSETTS

Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Select Board
June 30, 2020
Special Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Shellfish Advisory Committee to the Select Board was held on Thursday, June 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Members participated remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12th 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. Also present Recording Secretary Rodgers.

Not attending were members Sandi Corning, Peter Soffron. Also, Chief Nikas and Constable LaPreste were not present.

Karen Tyler, Veterans Service Officer and Richard Damato, Meadowview Road, Georgetown, MA were present.

Citizen queries: There were none.

Out-of-town Veterans fee:

Ms. Alexson explained that the Select Board would like to have the Subcommittee's recommendation concerning the fee for a Veteran from Georgetown, who is over 70 years old. He applied for a recreational clamming license (\$40.00 for Veterans under our revised regulations). He is challenging the \$40.00 fee, claiming that since we have a Resident Over-70 category which is only \$10.00, that category should apply to him and he should pay \$10.00.

Town Counsel was consulted and opined that the law is unclear as to age specific categories.

Mr. Damato stated his challenge and cited MGL 130 section 52 and asked if anyone had read it.

Members discussed the issue at length, the legal gray area, impacts on the resource, the consequence for an exempt fee for non-residents and creating a new category in the regulations for over 70 non-residents.

Chair recognized Karen Tyler, Veterans Service Officer who spoke in support of providing preferences to veterans.

Members expressed concerns about an upsurge in non-resident permits and impacts on the resource.

Mr. Damato stated he was a disabled veteran and under Mass Law fees for veterans are the same for residents. He added that Newbury and Rowley follow the law and there are no fees for over 70 years of age. He continued, that as a veteran and resident of Massachusetts and over 70 years of age there is no fee; he is willing to pay into the enhancement fund.

Discussion continued concerning the Board recommendation to the Select Board; whether to create a new category in the regulations, options were discussed, it was noted that it was not a time sensitivity issue.

Mr. Damato reiterated that veterans are considered a resident as far as fees are concerned in other towns.

MOTION:

Mr. Castonguay moved to continue discussion to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Shellfish Committee and not make a recommendation at this time. Ms. Alexson said she would vote against, because she felt there was opportunity for an interim solution. Mr. Castonguay, yes; Mr. Surpitski, yes; Mr. Mootafian, yes; Ms. Turner, yes. There was no second.

MOTION:

Mr. Surpitski moved to recommend the Select Board waive the fee for Richard Damato, for the Committee to conduct further research and make a decision at the August meeting. Ms. Alexson voted in favor of Mr. Castonguay's motion.

There was no second

MOTION:

Mr. Surpitski moved, since there is such a gray area, this issue needs further discussion, to recommend the Select Board waive the fee of \$40 for residential fee. Mr. Mootafian seconded.

Discussion took place, Mr. Castonguay expressed his dissatisfaction, as it is not a time sensitive issue and this action may set precedent. Mr. Surpitski reasoned more research is needed to do the right thing for the town's people, the resource and veterans. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote: Mr. Castonguay, yes; Mr. Surpitski, yes; Mr. Mootafian, yes; Ms. Turner, yes; and Ms. Alexson, yes.

The Committee's recommendation will be placed on the Select Board agenda for Monday July 6, 2020.

Rowley aquaculture project

Ms. Alexson contacted the Rowley aquaculture applicant, who has agreed to attend next meeting and provide a brief presentation.

Harbor management plan update: Ms. Alexson reported that Mr. Soffron has submitted materials to DMF.

Next Meeting – August 4, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom Video Conference.

Adjourn - It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:58 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.