

Town of Ipswich
MASSACHUSETTS

Shellfish Advisory Sub-Committee to the Board of Selectman
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2009

Pursuant to written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all members, a meeting of the Town of Ipswich Shellfish Advisory Sub-Committee to the Board of Selectman was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 7:00 pm in COA Cafeteria in the Town Hall. Members present were Gary Collum, Bradford McGowan, Michael Lambros, Anthony Murawski, Shellfish Warden Arnold "Pick" Thistlewood Elizabeth Kilcoyne, and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers.

Wayne Castonguay, Charles Surpitski and the Town Manager Robert Markel were not present.

Others in attendance: John Pelletier, Andy and Linda Alexson, Matt Gonet, Shawn Parker and Bob Marcaurelle.

Citizen's Query: John Pelletier questioned why the brochure for farming clams remains on the Town's web site and the Shellfish Warden name is not listed. Mr. Pelletier was encouraged to submit information on soft shell clamming for posting on the Town's web page.

Mr. Thistlewood exclaimed that there is a net on the grid. Mr. Murawski said he didn't know it was there because it was covered with mud. Mr. Alexson said when they conducted the inspection nothing was there, these nets have floats on them. Mr. Alexon departed. Mr. Thistlewood and the Board agreed Mr. Murawski would remove the nets this Saturday.

Ms. Kilcoyne announced that the BOS have been sued for work done and decisions made with respect to one of the grants; Town Counsel is responding accordingly.

Ms. Kilcoyne called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. and thanked Linda Alexson and Bob Markel who worked on the revisions to produce the second draft of the regulations. The second revised draft shellfish rules and regulations were distributed for review. Next week on the 24th there will be a vote on the final draft; voting members will be Michael Lambros, Wayne Castonguay, Elizabeth Kilcoyne and Charles Surpitski. The commercial fishermen will recuse themselves due to a direct financial conflict.

Mr. Parker initiated discussion regarding the definition of "Commercial Purposes" including selling for bait – Mr. Thistlewood responded that's a question for the State.

Mr. Parker then initiated discussion regarding the definition of "resident" and related his personal experience of being omitted from the census; resident qualifications were reviewed. No changes were made to page one.

In response to Mr. Murawski's query regarding the change in application deadline to February 28th.

Ms. Kilcoyne explained early date will afford the Town Clerk extra time to gather all information needed, including a BOS meeting approval, to have permits ready by April 1st.

Page 3 – lengthy discussion took place regarding full time students. It was determined the reference is for high school students only, of which there will be a cap of five, not to be included in the overall cap. And the fee would be \$250 giving high school student opportunity to dig from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Every place it reads license will be changed to permit.

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the addition of mussels. The Board determined to change the 'or' to 'and' in the sentence One (1) 10-quart pail of soft shelled clams and mussels.

Page 4 – State regulations limit Quahogs to one-inch thickness.

Ms. Alexon suggested locating the “Size Limits” to the beginning of the regulations. The Board determined to combine size limits with Section 8 and move it, in its entirety to Section 1A.

Page 4 add mussels to daily limits; add ‘marine worms’ before shellfish to read “shellfish and marine worms”; and again on the first page.

Section 5 – Discussion was held regarding non-resident recreational permits; no changes were made. Section -6 ok; Section -7 ok; Section -8 ok; Section -9 ok; Section -10 ok, no changes from last week. Mr. Pelletier submitted chapter 130 State Law and Ms. Kilcoyne read #5 closure of flats. The Board determined that according to town counsel the authority to open and close flat lies with the BOS and does not require a legal notice. Section -11 ok, no changes; Section -12, no changes. Section 13 – was skipped over for discussion in phase II.

Ms. Kilcoyne read the letter she submitted to the editor of the chronicle, and thanked Ms. Alexon for her help with mailing out notices.

MOTION:

Mr. Lambros moved to reimbursement Ms. Alexon out of the Shellfish Enhancement Fund for the cost of mailing out notices to all shellfish permit holders. Mr. Collum seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion took place on the conduct, management and organization for the meeting next week. Those with questions will go to the podium, direct the question to the Chair who will then delegate the question to a board member to answer. Present the weight limit in a balanced way; add the predator control and educational initiatives.

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the weight limit, with the aid of closure dates, provided by Mr. Thistlewood; surrounding towns were discussed; the general consensus was to allow 240 pounds and conduct a predator program. It was determined to omit the word “conservation” on Page 3 - the third paragraph “Every commercial permit holder will perform a task of enhancement or predator control.” Mr. Thistlewood informed the Board that Salem State offers a grant for predator control; tri-town collaboration is in the works.

Mr. Collum moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Lambros seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved by the Board on October 27, 2009.