

TOWN OF IPSWICH

Shellfish Advisory Sub-Committee to the Board of Selectman

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 9th, 2009

Pursuant to written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all members, a meeting of the Town of Ipswich Shellfish Sub-Committee to the Board of Selectman was held on Tuesday June 9th, 2009 at 7:30 pm in room C of the Town Hall. Members present were Bradford McGowan, Wayne Castonguay, Michael Lambros, Charles Surpitski, Elizabeth Kilcoyne, Anthony Murawski, Gary Collum, Shellfish Constable Arnold 'Pick' Thistlewood and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. Town Manager Robert Markel Deputy Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste and were absent.

Others in attendance: John Pelletier, 59 Topsfield Road, -Andy and Linda Alexson 19 Juniper Street, Matt Gonet.

Call to order: Mr. Surpitski called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Citizens Queries: John Pelletier questioned the source of pollution in the Ipswich River. Mr. Thistlewood described the procedures by which DMF checks the DNA, but when they arrived there was no count. Mr. Castonguay related a similar situation with Kimball Brook; and inferred it could be of a temporary sewer break. In response to Mr. Collum's query regarding testing for red tide, Mr. Thistlewood said red tide is tested for periodically.

AQUACULTURE DISCUSSION:

Chair said the discussion on aquaculture would be rescheduled; speakers were not able to make it to this meeting.

Mr. Lambros moved to reschedule the discussion on private aquaculture. Ms. Kilcoyne seconded. Discussion took place regarding rescheduling. The motion passed unanimously.

John Pelletier submitted a one page (214) Report of Commissioners of Fish & Fisheries and spoke to growth rates and results of experimental beds. Discussion ensued; the Board concurred the resource management plan is working and to leave procedures the way they are and not return to a flat closure/open policy.

Mr. Murawski will provide educational and shellfish guidance for recreational diggers, suitable for the Town's web site.

Mr. Castonguay suggested including an initiative of green crab control. Mr. Thistlewood said he had fifteen traps, he needed a place to put them and discussion ensued regarding disposal of the crab catch. Discussion ensued regarding logistics of storage and transportation.

Mr. McGowan said Neptune Harvest in Gloucester would take green crabs;

Mr. Surpitski will work with Mr. Thistlewood on transportation and trucking.

Mr. Castonguay will check with Appleton Farms compost program as a possible destination.

Discussion took place regarding regional efforts, and grant money for predator control; Mr. Thistlewood said there is no money for predator control. Mr. Castonguay suggested possible funds are available for 'invasive control'.

Mr. Alexson offered to speak with Mr. Faugaut about grant money for predator control.

Mr. Pelletier initiated discussion concerning 'relay' – moving contaminated clams to clean areas for harvest.

Mr. Thistlewood said it was tried and tested, it took so long it wasn't worth the time.

MAPPING PROJECT DISCUSSION:

Mr. Castonguay reported on the mapping subcommittee findings and submitted a document titled Potential Private Aquaculture Sites in Ipswich Selection Criteria (herby incorporated by reference). The basic findings were: over 95% of areas have been historically productive; cannot farm in areas owned by the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge; cannot farm in areas owned by TTOR; it is unlikely to receive permission areas of private ownership; cannot farm in areas with strong currents or open to the ocean; the entire Ipswich River is off the table; and cannot farm in areas with moorings and public beaches. Identified 2-3 % that still needs to be determined as being unproductive.

Discussions ensued regarding the process and how to attain a consensus.

Mr. Castonguay discussed the next steps – process of refinement of 25 acres; felt it was not worth detail mapping.

Ms. Kilcoyne motioned to move forward to take the next steps for consensus. Find area feasible for private and public aquaculture. Mr. Murawski seconded. Discussion site survey to gather information - go out in small groups. The mapping sub-committee (Mr. Lambros, Mr. Castonguay, and Mr. Collum) will copy the map and submit to interested parties and get feedback and gather information from experienced clambers and involve Harbor Master Jim Zabelski.

Eagle Hill Parking Update

Ms. Kilcoyne reported on her conversation with Conservation Agent David Pancoast and related restrictions in the Order of Conditions dated 4/1/09. Clam shells on top of parking lot, one-foot deep, and boulders moved to edge of parking lot, no excavation proposed. This proposal has Coastal Zone Management (CZM) approval. Letters are in to Army Corps of Engineers and DEP for compliance with Chapter 91. Need to file a Programmatic General Permit.

Ms. Kilcoyne will contact a consultant from Newburyport, hopefully in time for the FY09 budget.

Ms. Kilcoyne discussed the parking lot sign language from a photo Mr. Lambros submitted for rules and regulations; further review will take place.

Mr. Thistlewood spoke to the neighbor's issue of noise from driving down the road.

Ms. Kilcoyne will contact DPW to fill in and patch pot holes on the road into Eagle Hill parking area.

Ms. Kilcoyne related she did not see one permit on any vehicle parked there. Mr. Collum described the stickers as translucent contributing to their invisibility.

Mr. Collum spoke to the issue of longevity of clam shells and Ms. Kilcoyne will request perpetual maintenance enhancement.

SHELLFISH ENHANCEMENT FUND

Mr. Thistlewood submitted a quote for twenty buoys for nets; and an \$861. invoice for petunia boxes.

Mr. Castonguay moved to take from FY10 and move to FY09 Enhancement Fund budget.

June 16th 2009 Shellfish Advisory Sub-Committee was cancelled. Next meetings TBA.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Rodgers

These minutes were approved by the Board on October 14, 2009.