

TOWN OF IPSWICH

Shellfish Advisory Sub-Committee to the Board of Selectman

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 14th, 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 Wednesday October 14th, 2009 at 7:30 pm in room C of the Town Hall. Members present were Charles Surpitski, Gary Collum, Michael Lambros Bradford McGowan, Anthony Murawski, Shellfish Constable Scott LaPreste and Recording Secretary Marie Rodgers. Wayne Castonguay, Elizabeth Kilcoyne and Assistant Harbor Master Jim Zabelski were not present.

Others in attendance: Andy and Linda Alexson, John Pelletier and Matt Gonet.

Scott LaPreste submitted a copy of the map from the Federal Refuge, showing a propriety line and a taking line of authority. (hereby incorporated by reference)

All the Board welcomed and congratulated Scott LaPreste as the Town's new Shellfish Constable.

Citizens Queries: In response to a query from Linda Alexson, Mr. LaPreste will follow up on the prospect to use reverse 911 to alert commercial clambers of an upcoming task. Mr. McGowan suggested presenting the task information before the flat closure information.

Continuation of Aquaculture Discussion Section 13.

The Board determined to review regulations from other towns and review the current regulations in Ipswich and determined where they fall short. Starting with a mission statement and purpose of an aquaculture program public or private; define unproductive flats – based on historic information from towns citizens; determine who can dig the grant; timeline reporting requirements/dates; fees; application process; length of initial grant; renewal process/requirements to renew; compatibility with existing resources.

Mr. Murawski submitted an outline of the BMP's and suggested consideration of the information for inclusion to the regulations, as a standard. Discussion took place questioning plausibility of anyone following the standards of BMP's. Mr. Surpitski noted an issue for discussion would be the selection of grantees due to the minimal area available.

How to award a grant became number eleven on the list. Limits of harvest; should someone who holds a grant have a commercial license and be allowed to dig in open area. Ms. Alexson suggested penalties and enforcement. Mr. Pelletier noted that mud areas do not support clams and many potential areas mapped are mud, he suggested utilizing Salem State to test soils. How to determine practically/site selection process; size of a grant; issue of sub-leasing; sunset clause; species for grant awards; rules for seed introduction; Mr. Alexson suggested issues of unlimited digging. Mr. Pelletier suggested to distinction between sub-tidal lease and one on the flats; requirements for applicant. Discussion ensued regarding large corporations as grant holders. Should private or educational intuitions be allowed grant for research purposes; should corporations be awarded grants; discussion regarding size.

Mr. McGowan expounded on his idea of the town holding the lease and discussion ensued regarding 'block grant' process streamlining the permitting process; the Town does all the leg work for permitting.

Mr. Surpitski requested that Mr. McGowan give the idea more thought and present a comprehensive idea involving the mechanics of his proposal. Mr. Surpitski requested Mr. LaPreste to present the idea to Shellfish Officer Association.

Mr. Alexson opined that this approach would eliminate grey area and would make it easier on the Constable.

Mr. Surpitski spoke to and read the mission statement from Barnstable with approbation.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Lambros moved to approve five sets of minutes from May 20, 2009 - June 2, and 9, 2009 July 14, 2009 and September 15, 2009. Mr. Collum seconded, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Murawski abstained.

Eagle Hill Parking Update was deferred to next meeting when Ms. Kilcoyne will be present.

Mapping Project Mr. Lambros said he expects to meet with the Merrimack Valley guy to address changes and expects to have more of an update at the next meeting.

Enhancement Program Mr. LaPreste reported on tasks of setting seed and nets. Discussion took place concerning those who need to complete their task prior to December. It was clarified that a task is measure by an activity, not an increment of time. There may be a consideration for extension of time to complete tasks. Additional discussion took place concerning procedures to protect seed and nets from winter ice and Mr. Lapreste noted that the investment is subject to damage and destruction regardless.

Mr. Surpitski requested Mr. LaPreste look into obtaining a permit to shoot ducks.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Rodgers

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