

Minutes

Shellfish Conservation Committee Meeting

Present: Gary Ross, Cecil Doughty, Bob Earnest, Chip Corson, Jessie Russo
March 13, 2013 at 9am

Minutes in *italics*; assignments in **bold**

1. Call meeting to order *called to order at 9am.*
2. Approval of minutes from meeting of January 2, 2013 *Motion, second, approved.*
3. Nominate / elect long term officers:
 - a. Chairperson *Jessie Russo nominated; seconded; unanimous.*
 - b. Secretary *Bob Earnest nominated; seconded; unanimous.*
4. Shellfish Warden Report: *Ron was unable to attend today. We reviewed a stack of printouts Ron left for us: shellfish biology, currents, how spat gets here, invasive species, etc.*
 - a. Update on Cricks opening *Gary reported that, so far, clamming at the recently opened Cricks is not as strong as we thought it might be; but it's the best game in town today.*
 - b. Potential meeting with DMR staff to discuss conservation measures **Ron: please keep us informed as to when they might come out here.**
5. Discussion: what happened with the closure of a stretch of the west side flats last year? *The closure signs were recently found sitting in the office. Who is responsible for posting these signs, carrying the Committee's recommendations forward to the State, Selectboard, etc.? Apparently it did not get implemented with the State?*
 - a. What is the process for properly recommending and then implementing conservation closures? **Jessie to discuss with Eric: is this on the Shellfish Warden's job description? Should it be?**
6. Discussion: what happened to the past practice of posting open and closed clamming areas? **Jessie to discuss with Eric: is this on the Shellfish Warden's job description? Should it be? Can we get a copy of the job description? Maps used to be given with licenses, and used to be posted at Town Office, Store, Boat, etc. These postings need to be kept current – both for closures and the end of closures.**
7. Licenses issued for 2013 update (Michelle) *we reviewed the list (from Michelle) of licenses sold to date.*
8. Planning for annual shellfish survey:

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend!

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- a. Recommended areas to survey *Discussion: Cricks & Springettes. We'll plan to survey April 1, 2, and 3; 8am on the 1st, 8:30 on the 2nd; 9am on the 3rd. We'll start in front of Gary's at the Cricks on the 1st. **Ron**: please bring the screens, clipboards, etc needed for the survey.*
 - b. Dates?
9. Shellfish Ordinance needs to be rewritten:
- a. At least, to separate Shellfish from Coastal Waters
 - b. Does the committee want to try again to rewrite the ordinance to change age, who can accompany, etc re: recreational licenses? *Note: the current ordinance does not refer to senior recreational licenses. It also does not refer to how many people you can take with you on one license. If age 62 is just a past practice but is not in ordinance, then can Shellfish just handle this during the annual rework of licenses? **Jessie** to have a chat with Donna to learn more about this topic.*
 - i. If so: who will work on the rewrite **Bob and Jessie** will talk with Herb after Jessie talks with Donna. *Can we do two rewrites: one that separates Shellfish from CW; and then another that deals with licensing, age, etc.*
 - ii. If so: how to increase chances of it passing at Town Meeting *We'll need to get the commercial diggers to the meeting to represent their viewpoint.*
 - iii. What is the process?
 - iv. Timeline?
10. Public comment *none at this time.*
11. Adjourn meeting *Motion, seconded, unanimous.*

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend!