

April 9 ,2019

Regular monthly Provincetown Shellfish Committee Meeting

Called to Order: 5:10 pm

Members present: Alex Brown, Dave Flattery, Bob Hazard, Rick Macara , Nancy Ann Meads and Lory Santos(chair).

Also present: Steve Wisbauer(Shellfish Constable), Laura Ludwig (Center for Coastal Studies), Dave Straznitskas, Ryan PremDis, Frederic Gascon, Jamey Staniscia ,Jean Horner and [Ginny Parker, Brett Morse and Bradford Morse (members of Wellfleet Shellfish Association)].

Public Comments:

Approve minutes: Motion by D. Flattery, seconded by B. Hazard to approve minutes of 11/6/18, 12/11/18 and 1/3/19. **Vote** 5/0 approve.

Copies of minutes for 3/5/19 were not available for review.

Old Business:

- Shellfish Constable Report:
 - Shellfish Department April 9, 2019 update:
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 - **2019 Agenda Request Public Hearing Shellfish Aquaculture License Areas, Renewals, Transfers and Applications:** • We were on the Select Board Agenda for March 25, 2019. The 6 renewals, 2 transfers and 6 new conditional aquaculture licenses all passed unanimously.
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 - **NHESP: Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program:** • Mr. Dennis Minsky has produced a draft for the required NHESP division-approved multi-season plan to document existing tern abundance, behavior, distribution, and habitat use within Provincetown harbor to be submitted for approval. (See March 2019 update and attached) **2018-19 Recreational Shellfishing Season Has Ended:** • Season total landings were observed at approximately: 1050 pecks of quahog, 340 pecks of oyster and 400 pecks of bay scallops • During the final few open days of the season, diggers moved farther southeast to a large area of dense quahog. With upcoming spring relay propagation efforts, this years open area (east of the west end breakwater) will have the resources to be reopened next year along with the area described on maps as “west end”.
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 - **MSI (Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative):** • Working with MA DMF, MSI has created a Shellfish Constable Municipal Survey found hear: https://umassboston.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3lBoAK6mfE6psRD • They have tried to keep the questions factual and avoid the subjective stated goals of previous surveys. • MSI continues to be associated with proposed changes to MGL Chapter 130 identified as HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 110:9. (See attached)
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 - **Town of Provincetown Economic Development Strategy:** • Growers **NEED** to participate in the Community Forum on Wednesday, APRIL 17th at 6pm at Town Hall, which will include discussion of all themes with your neighbors to help guide the future of Provincetown. Participants will be asked to think about the critical issues facing our community and work to identify actionable solutions to support our residents and businesses.
 - **Surveillance Camera on shellfish grants:** L. Santos commented that this should be a grower responsibility.
 - **Any other old business:** None

New Business:

- **Laura Ludwig(Cleanup of flats):** L. Ludwig (Ctr. Costal Studies) commented that during harbor cleanup over 40ft of plastic screen mesh was recovered. She questioned where it came from and what can be done to prevent a reoccurrences of this possible shellfish gear. Numerous at the meeting said it came from Wellfleet clam growers; caused by unusual extreme icing and severe storms that washed debris to Provincetown bay. Stronger efforts to anchor mesh was suggested by L. Ludwig. J. Horner commented about a large amount of oyster bags and floats in the same area. S. Wisbauer interjected this has been caused by recent storms and he was working with growers to recover their gear.
- **G. Parker (Wellfleet Shellfishermen’s Assoc.):** Three WSA members spoke about the advantages of joining their group or forming our own to help support PT local shellfishermen and avoid outside corporations taking over our “blue economy”. They expressed concern about MSI’s potential goals, regulations and loss of town rule. The need for proper representation by forming a group.
- **Bennett Pier plexiglass nursery:** D. Flattery requested that nursery downweller function be more clearly displayed to curious viewers. Comments were made about not allowing access to pier, due to liability. More signage or diagrams were suggested.
- **Any other new business:** Town harbor planning Presentation, to be held April 16th; growers and shellfish committee people should attend.
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Motion to Adjourn: by D. Flattery, seconded by L. Santos to adjourn at 6:15 PM. **Vote** 6-0 to approve

B. Hazard, Secretary