

Shellfish Advisory Board Meeting
February 15th, 6pm
Wellfleet Adult Community Center

Board Members in attendance: Rebecca Taylor (Chair), Brad Morse (Vice Chair), Nick Sirucek (secretary), Adrien Kmiec, Stephen Pickard, Ethan Estey, John Duane (via Zoom), Chris Merl

Regrets: Damien Parkington

Announcements & Public Comment

- L. Dexter made comments re: health of wild fishery and Chipman's Cove access
- N. Civetta commented on Herring River water quality test and season opening dates

Approve Meeting Minutes

- Minutes reviewed, N. Sirucek commented on need to add list of materials to the minutes
- Minutes approved 7-0 conditional on list of materials being added

Town Ice Machine

- Board members commented on Select Board meeting re: Ice Machine, infrastructure issues
- A. Pickard spoke of electricity/water situation at marina, spoke of possible WOA funding
- Board members discussed issue of the Commonwealth reducing grant funding in their budget that was earmarked for the Wellfleet Ice Machine
- Board members discussed forming a working group with people from Select Board, WSD, Harbormaster, etc, discussed issue of placement of machine(s)
- Town Accountant K. Pomeroy commented that the town has ~\$62k on the books from the initial earmark from the state, will look into the status of the rest of the grant
- Board agreed to have the SAB Ice Machine subcommittee meet with the Select Board liaison and other Town Department representatives to work on the ice machine project

Discussion re: Conservation Commission review of Chipman's Cove access, draft letter to Conservation Commission

- R. Taylor commented that most wild oystermen don't think they're causing any issues
- B. Morse commented that Cons Comm may vote on this issue at their Feb 21st meeting
- N. Civetta noted that she sent out a Crier about this issue and hosted a community meeting about it, noted the apparent existence of a circa 2008 access plan from Cons Com
- Board discussed sending a letter to Cons Comm asking them to delay any vote on Chipman's Cove access until there is more input from the shellfishing community
- N. Sirucek made motion to send the following letter to Cons Comm: "Recommend the Conservation Commission reschedule their meeting regarding Chipman's Cove beach driving to a time not near low tide, in order to get as much input from the shellfish community as possible, and we also invite a Conservation Commission representative to a future Shellfish Advisory Board meeting to provide us with more information.", 2nd'd by E.Estey, motion passed 6-0-1

Letter from Finance Committee

- The Board reviewed the letter received from the Finance Committee's liaison to the Shellfish Department and discussed town policy re: communication between boards
- No action was taken on this item

Shellfish Department FY25 Budget

- Board agreed to move onto the WSD FY2025 Budget agenda item
- Board reviewed the WSD FY2025 budget, lines 179/180
- B. Morse inquired about the budgeted Deputy Shellfish Constable position and if it had been filled
- N. Civetta commented that the position has been offered to an applicant
- N. Sirucek moved to “recommend the WSD FY2025 Budget, lines 179/180 as presented”, 2nd'd by J. Duane, motion passed 4-3

Shellfish Department FY25 Capital Improvement Plan

- N. Civetta gave a presentation to the board of the WSD FY25 Capital Improvement Plan
- Board members asked about replacement plans for boat motors and trucks used by the department and suggested looking into alternatives
- Board members asked about the use of the Revolving Fund for certain capital purchases
- S. Pickard moved to “Recommend the FY25 Capital Improvement Plan as presented”, motion passed 7-0

Shellfish Revolving Fund

- Board members inquired as to how much money is in the revolving fund
- Town Accountant K. Pomeroy gave an estimated balance of \$190,592 as of the end of FY23
- Board members discussed the purpose of the Revolving Fund
- N. Civetta commented that the Shellfish Department is looking into expanding their cultching permits, and would possibly need to ask for the SRF spending limit to be raised, and that WSD is also looking into getting a grant from WOA to help cover the estimated ~\$40k permitting costs
- A. Kmiec moved to “Recommend the Shellfish Revolving Fund spending limit as submitted”, 2nd'd by N. Sirucek, motion passed 7-0

Review/discuss Town Counsel's legal determination regarding Shellfish Department reorganization process (continued from last meeting)

- The board discussed if this topic was still relevant
- N. Sirucek made motion to table this item indefinitely, 2nd'd by J. Duane, motion passed 7-0

Future Topics

- Possible future topics discussed included Horseshoe Crab regulations, Chipman's Beach Driving, Cultching, DMF Meeting update, overwintering form review, Ice Machine update

Meeting adjourned by a vote of 7-0 at 9:15PM

List of Materials used at this meeting:

- Minutes of Jan 26th meeting
- Maps showing Town-owned properties w/ power and water
- Satellite images of Chipman's Cove from 2001, 2012, 2023
- Conservation Commission map for Chipman's Cove Driving
- WSD Memo re: driving at Chipman's Cove
- Cons Comm annual report re: Chipman's Cove
- CPA report to BOS on Town Landings
- SAB Annual report 2008 re: Chipman's Cove
- Letter from Finance Committee liaison to Shellfish Department
- WSD FY2025 Budget 179/180
- WSD Budgets 179/180 up to mid-June 2019
- WSD FY2025 Capital Improvement Plan
- WSD Shellfish Revolving Fund ATM Warrant Article
- Shellfish revolving fund FY24 and FY24 Revenues and Expenditures ledgers
- Town Counsel Legal Opinion re: WSD Hiring Process