

Shellfish Advisory Board Meeting
January 18th, 2024 6PM
Town Hall Basement Conference Room

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

Announcements & Public Comment

- N. Sirucek informed board re: public posting of possible SAB quorum at upcoming WOA public meeting to comply with OML
- S. Pickard informed board and public of incident on Mayo beach of a shellfish farmer's equipment being removed/stolen from the beach
- H. Wilson made public comment that the Assistant Town Administer has submitted his resignation and his last day will be Feburary 15th

Approve Meeting Minutes

- Oct 23rd SAB minutes were reviewed by board, amended spelling errors, S.Pickard made motion to approve, 2nd'd by A.Kmiec, approved 6-0
- Jan 8th SAB minutes were reviewed by board, amended spelling errors, A. Kmiec made motion to approve, 2nd'd by S.Pickard, approved 6-0

WSD Budget

- C. Merl (alternate) seated as voting member
- Board reviewed FY2025 budget packet provided by WSD
- N. Civetta informed board that Herring Warden budget was mistakenly included under WSD budget when in fact they have their own line item
- N. Civetta gave presentation to board explaining FY2025 budget, including salaries and union contract increases that were later approved at Town Meeting, fuel costs, operating budget items, how Shellfish Revolving Fund factors into budget, FY2025 budget compared to previous years, and the process of how the budget was formed
- B. Morse read a letter voicing his concerns regarding the FY2025 budget, particularly regarding the Deputy Shellfish Constable position and the process of the reorganization of that position by TA, BOS, WSD, and the function and funding level of WSD
- N. Civetta responded to B. Morse with her opinion of the process, and her position that the Deputy Constable was a preexisting title/position and had already been filled in a lower-hour capacity, and her department's work on the dredging mitigation
- C. Merl commented on his concerns with the process of the Deputy Shellfish Constable reorganization/hire, especially in context of position increasing to full-time
- N. Civetta reiterated that she followed a process at the direction of her superiors
- S. Pickard commented that he believes operating budget will necessarily increase if there is another full-time hire
- A. Kmiec asked Constable on her opinion if Deputy Constable hire was added to a future town warrant, if for no other reason than public perception
- N. Civetta commented that the position was already posted in the past and pulled for review after concerns were raised, reiterated that her understanding was that Town Meeting approval

- isn't needed for a preexisting position
- S. Pickard asked if part-time positions would still be needed with a new full-time hire
 - N. Civetta responded that she believes the part-time position is still necessary
 - C. Merl spoke of his desire that the issue be resolved, still has issues with full-time position not being a separate article on Town Warrant
 - C. Merl proposed a motion "To approve the budget but ask Town Counsel if full-time position with benefits was approved at Town Meeting"
 - Board discussion re: the proposed motion, input from Constable
 - H. Wilson reminded board that motions should be to "recommend" budget, not "approve", spoke to how departments can move around job responsibilities, spoke to union benefits
 - D. Brunt asked questions of N. Civetta regarding budget
 - A. Kmiec had to leave the meeting early
 - S. Pickard made motion: "Recommend the WSD budget without the line for the vacant hire", 2nd'd by C. Merl, motion failed 4-2
 - J. Duane made motion "Recommend the WSD budget as submitted", 2nd'd by N. Sirucek, motion failed 3-3
 - B. Morse made motion to "Request the Town Counsel's written determination on the BOS motion made 10/17 re: expansion of the shellfish department, and if no determination exists, please provide one", 2nd'd by J. Duane, motion passed 5-0-1
 - Board agreed to send this motion/request to the BOS and TA office and to schedule a meeting on the materials when they are expected to have been received

Possible Future Topics

- Discuss materials received in relation to SAB's request for Town Counsel opinion
- WSD FY2025 Budget
- Ice Machine

Meeting adjourned

Materials used at this meeting: Shellfish department FY25 operating budget, Jan 8th minutes, Oct 23rd minutes