

Shellfish and Waterways Improvement Advisory Committee - January 10th, 2023

In attendance: B. Amaru, M. Carroll, D. Edmunds, A. Mathison, M. Mathison, S. Phillips, C. Poosikian, J. Quigley, N. Sears, D. Slack. Absent: P. Przygocki.

Approval of Minutes: August 2022 minutes approved. 7-0-1.

Public Comment: None.

Waiting Lists for Slips at Rock Harbor

- Continued discussion on the possibility of dedicating a certain percentage of slips to commercial vessels to maintain Rock Harbor as a working harbor. This could include a separate waitlist.
- The committee reviewed examples of language from other Cape towns regarding commercial vessels.
- Nate suggested that we start with information gathering before putting together a working group to develop new policies.

Pleasant Bay Enhancement of Wild Shellfish Stock

- Dave Slack discussed a January 6th meeting with Owen Nichols from the Center for Coastal Studies regarding a possible increase in wild shellfish recruitment in Pleasant Bay. While the desire is to have a self-sustaining fishery, it is understood that there is severe predation in certain parts of the bay.
- Nate Sears voiced a desire to know why the Pleasant Bay quahogs are struggling and what the causes are. He suggested a possible comparison between the successful quahogs in Town Cove vs. those in Pleasant Bay.

Brief Updates

- a. Pleasant Bay Kelp Project: Harwich conservation commission approved PBCB's request to place kelp lines in their mooring area.
- b. Fertilizer Bylaw: Discussion of the Cape Cod Chronicle article from December 28th, "Harwich Backs Down from Fertilizer Regulation".
- c. 2022 Lonnie's Pond Interim Report: Members requested a review of the report to address the long term aims of the current oyster denitrification process. Nate also suggested that this small experiment should be continued before expanding it. Selectman Mark Mathison suggested reaching out to the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners for further guidance and information. Phil reminded us that the full 2022 annual report should be available later in the month. Dan Ward should be able to walk the committee through it.

Natural Resources/Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable Report, Nate Sears:

- Long term capital plan (FY 27) includes rebuilding the Gavigan property by Skaket Beach for proper employee housing.
- The Hubler property at Nauset Beach will be utilized for housing until no longer feasible and will then be converted into additional parking spaces.

Selectboard Liaison Report Mark Mathison:

- See prior items.

Public Comment/Announcements:

- David Slack gave a touching presentation on a shellfisherman who loved the water and was a valued supporter of this committee, Jay Harrington.
- We also recognized the sad passing of Dr. Brian Howes.

Motion to adjourn by C. Poosikian, second by D. Edmunds at 7:40pm.

Submitted by Alexis Mathison on February 14th, 2023.

Approved on **.