

Shellfish and Waterways Improvement Advisory Committee - August 8th, 2023

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

Approval of Minutes: June 2023 minutes approved. 5-0.

Introduction of Town Manager

- New town manager Kimberly Newman was introduced by Chairman B. Amaru. She expressed eagerness to collaborate with the committee. Shellfish and waterways members also did introductions.

Proposed Home Rule Petition on Pesticides

- Selectboard Chair Michael Herman gave a presentation on the proposed warrant article for the Fall 2023 Special Town Meeting (STM) regarding a home rule petition to the state legislature to reduce the use of pesticides within the town.
- The committee voted 5-0-0 to recommend this article be placed on the STM warrant.

Public Comment: None.

Committee Member Reappointments

- B. Amaru, P. Przygocki, and J. Quigley were reappointed as regular members for 3 year terms by the selectboard.
- M. Carroll and C. Poosikian were reappointed as associate members for 3 year terms by the selectboard.
- Officer elections postponed until the next meeting due to absences.

Public Comment on DEP Decision Re: Holtec Discharge Petition

- S. Phillips gave a report on the provisional denial by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of Holtec's petition to discharge radioactive water in Cape Cod Bay.
- Comment period ends at 5pm on Monday, August 28, 2023.
- The committee voted 5-0 to send comments to the state in support of DEP's provisional denial, recognizing that there is no good solution to the problem.

Natural Resources/Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable Report Nate Sears:

- Update on Projects at Rock Harbor: Nate attended the onsite visit for the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the new fuel tanks at Rock Harbor with the conservation agent. The project will go out to bid in late August or early September and hopefully contractors will be on location in January to bypass the old tanks, connect to the old line and into the new above ground tanks. The commercial bulkhead is already permitted and designed and funding for construction will be on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) in May of 2024.

- The town was awarded a \$1.3 million grant by the Executive Office of Economic Development for the dredging project at Rock Harbor and will go out to bid in the spring of 2024.
- The town has secured 500,000 quahog R8 seed for the fall from Clam Daddies in New Jersey.
- The Oversand Vehicle (OSV) corridor opened fully on July 24th without requiring a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).
- The northside is still inaccessible. Callanan's Pass is not the problem, there is a lack of profile on the front beach prohibiting recreational travel.
- There is one open shellfish grant on Cape Cod Bay.
- Pilgrim Lake could potentially be closed to swimming due to cyanobacteria and harmful algal blooms.
- There was a discussion about facilitating non-resident shellfish permit holders at town landings that require a resident sticker.

Selectboard Liaison Report Mark Mathison:

- Mark highlighted the successful grant application for Rock Harbor.
- There was also a discussion of the Selectboard goals and the Economic Development Committee and how the waterways play a role.

Announcements/Topics for Future Meetings:

- Topics for future meetings: annual report on Lonnie's Pond, report on this season's herring count, and the state of shellfisheries in Orleans.

Motion to adjourn by A. Mathison, second by S. Phillips at 7:43pm.

Submitted by Alexis Mathison on September 13th, 2023.

Approved on September 13th, 2023.