

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Town of Bar Harbor

Wednesday, April, 21st 2020
Meeting minutes

CALL TO ORDER – 4:04 p.m. zoom meeting,

Present: Chris Petersen (chair), Scott Swann, Joanna Fogg, Fiona de Koning, Matt Gerald, John Avila

Guests: Heidi Leighton (Maine DMR), Aliza Leit, Charlie Phippen, Chris Wharff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –February minutes 6-0.

A. Old Business

Clam recruitment work and Maine Shellfish Restoration and Resilience Grant - There is still about \$1500 left of the MSRR fund for projects this year. The lantern nets with seed from last year are on two aquaculture sites having spent the winter there. We will be evaluating how they survived and outplanting them in May.

Proposed Clam Flat work 2021. We have several projects proposed for May.

a. We have a transplant permit in hand to be able to move small clams from 2 aquaculture sites to the clam flats in late May. Thursday MAY 27th was chosen as the save the date clam day, with the 28th and 29th for storm dates. We will be moving clams to Hadley Point East at two intertidal heights and one site in Otter Cove. These dates have late low tides, which will allow us to bring in clams, mark them for a growth study, and then outplant them on the same day. We will cover the clams with the nets that we last used in 2018 – Hedi volunteered that she had additional nets if we needed any. Aliza and Chris will check through the equipment that we have and see if any repairs were needed. We also discussed whether or not we would want to put the clams in 'petunia boxes' under the nets.

b. Recruitment boxes. It was decided to place recruitment boxes (Beal boxes, 1 by 2 foot screen boxes) at the following locations in the second half of May along with the netting project. A total of 30 boxes with about 5 in each location except 10 at Hadley point (5 higher up the intertidal and 5 lower down):

- Otter Cove
- Clark Cove
- Windaway
- Thomas Island
- Hadley Point.

We discussed the practical arrangements of who was helping to fix netting and make or repair boxes. The materials can be reimbursed from the grant as can a \$20/ hour stipend for labor for any student who can help.

The Resilience and Restoration grants will be open again for application in January.

B. New Business

Chris made a proposal to waive the commercial conservation time requirement for commercial clam licenses for the 21/22 license season due to the pandemic restrictions we have had for meetings and gatherings. Fiona seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous. Heidi advised on the steps required and the timing to make this official for the ordinance as the new year begins July 1st.

B Clamflat surveys – Clark Cove and Northwest Cove. We will try to set dates and tides to census bivalve species (soft-shelled clams, hard clams, oysters) at Blue Hill Bay sites something this

spring. Our goal is to work towards understanding the population of these species in anticipation of adding oysters and hard clams (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) to our ordinance.

C. American Aquafarms and State Legislation Update

The committee discussed the American Aqua Farms Salmon Aquaculture Lease proposal, and that this was coming up for discussion to a meeting at the town council on April 21.

LD 1211, a Bay Management bill submitted by Representative Lynne Williams was also discussed.

The new U Maine Seagrass Shellfish handbook was introduced and Heidi said that it was also available on the DMR website.

D. Harbormaster sailing away. The committee offered its thanks to Charlie Phippen for the years of service and help to the marine resources committee as this was his last meeting before he retired. We wished him a very happy retirement and hoped to see him around in an unofficial capacity. The committee then welcomed our new harbormaster Chris Wharff and introductions were made. We are looking forward to working with him.

C. Next meeting: May 19th 4pm

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06pm

Respectfully submitted by Fiona de Koning