

Truro Shellfish Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

For

04/08/16

Meeting Called to Order: 4:01pm EST

Members Present: Dan Smith – Vice Chair, Nick Brown, Steve Wisbauer, Mark Wisotzky Tony Jackett (Truro Shellfish Constable) ; Scott Lindell present via speaker phone – did not vote.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes were reviewed for the 12/04/15 and 01/12/16 meetings. Mark made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the Dec 04, 2015 meeting as presented. Nick seconded, and the **motion** passed 4 – 0. Mark made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the Joint BoS / SAC meeting held on Jan 12, 2016 as presented. Nick seconded, and the **motion** passed 3 – 0 with one abstention (Steve).

Review of Shellfish Regulations: Tony informed the committee that a question had been raised about the regulations not specifically stating that shellfishing in the Pamet Harbor was limited to Sundays and asked if they should be updated to reflect such. Following discussion, it was determined that the current regulations, signage and informational handouts adequately inform the public of the regulations. No action was needed.

Discuss ADA Waitlist and Other Status of Applications For Aquaculture Grants: Tony informed the committee that no new applications had been received. The current waitlist remains with two interested parties on it. He also updated informed the committee that all ADA license holders were in compliance with the bond requirements.

Follow-Up From Public Meeting With DMF in January 2016: Steve provided an update regarding the content and message provided to local SAC's, shellfish growers by key regulators (Chris Schillaci, Aquaculture Coordinator & Erin Burke, Protected Resources). DMF informed the group that it was relaxing the rules governing the Truro/Provincetown Aquaculture Development Area (ADA) and would be allowing all growers to use floating gear starting in 2016. In continued efforts to reduce the number of vertical lines, other changes included the optional use of corner buoys to delineate individual grant boundaries will be left up to the discretion of the growers and/or Shellfish Constable. The specific date upon which growers may raise or commence use of floating gear shall remain at the discretion of DMF.

Review Information Related to Development of a Second 25 Acres ADA: Steve indicated that DMF will not be permitting any type of ADA in the future unless the plan includes specific names of growers and their specific intentions for use. DMF has concluded that it cannot accurately complete biological surveys and/or monitor/control activities within an ADA without this information. Discussion followed about how Truro might plan a future ADA by using Standardized Growing Methodologies if demand existed. It was further noted that at the present time, there is not high demand for additional licenses. Mark made a **motion** to put efforts toward the development of an additional 25 acre ADA on hold until such time that demand warrants its revival. Nick seconded, and the **motion** passed 4 – 0.

Discussion of the Status of Updating the Shellfish Constable Job Description: Nick reminded the committee that he had previously worked on this, provided examples to the committee which were submitted to the Town. It was suggested this same information be retrieved and resubmitted to the Truro Town Administrator.

Discussion of National Park Service Mgmt of Pilgrim Lake/East Harbor: Steve indicated that he had made contact with Mary Jo Avallar, Provincetown's liaison with the National Park Service, on this topic. Discussion ensued. Key concerns of the committee include:

- 1) What intentions does the Park Service have for maintaining adequate flow of tidal waters so that the body of water does not revert back to fresh water?
 - a. Concerned about drifting sands impeding water flow as well as the status of the actual outflow pipe and flapper valves (Closure of the water flow would create changes in vegetation and/or potential problems with bugs)
- 2) What interest does the Park Service have with shellfish growth within this area?

Nick and Dan will make contact and report back at the next meeting.

Status of the Pamet Harbor Flats after the Shellfishing Season and Plans for Seeding: Tony provided the committee with an update. He indicated that there were between 30-50 people shellfishing on most Sundays during the season. The primary target seemed to be oysters and quahogs. He reported that softshell clams are showing signs of recovery in various locations but not to the extent as in previous years. Seeding of quahogs and mussels is planned to occur in April.


Discussion of Budget and Spending Plans for Shellfish Resources in 2016/2017: Tony reported that the budgets for the harbor and shellfish have been combined. Presently, he feels as though he has adequate budget to maintain shellfish resources in Truro. No action needed.

Discussion of Next SAC Meeting: The next SAC meeting will be determined. Topics will include the following:

- Discussion of National Park Service Mgmt of Pilgrim Lake/East Harbor
- Review current Waitlist and/or Other Aquaculture Grant Applications
- Review Over-Wintering Reports From Growers

Nick made a **motion** to adjourn at 5:30pm. Dan seconded, **motion** passed 4 – 0.

Reviewed & Appraised by SAC
@ 05/27/16 mtg

Submitted by Dan Smith

06/01/16

