TRURO SHELLFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MINUTES

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2021, 3:00 PM. VIDEO CONFERENCE

SAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Nick Brown, Mark Wisotzky, Gary Sharpless (Vice-chair), Chris Clark, Matt McCue

SAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Smith (Chair)

OTHERS PRESENT: Tony Jackett (Truro Shellfish Constable)

CALL TO ORDER 3:04 pm

ROLL CALL: Nick Brown present, Mark Wisotzky present, Gary Sharpless present, Chris Clark present, Matt McCue present

MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2021 SAC MEETING: Motion to approve minutes with minor revisions made by Nick. Second Gary. Matt yes, Nick yes, Mark abstains, Gary yes. Chris yes. Motion carries.

UPDATE ON RECREATIONAL SHELLFISH AND SEEDING PLAN FOR 2022: Tony reported that 2021 relay of 300 totes of quahogs (24,000 lbs.) will help the overall population in the harbor as they spawn when water temperature reaches 68 degrees. The benefits are seen in the healthy population of clams at Corn Hill beach. Tony proposed placing some of the future relay product in the closed areas of the Pamet so that when they spawn out the tide will distribute spat into approved areas and beyond. The SAC agreed with this plan. Tony obtained authorization from the DMF to relay adult oysters from the ADA to the Pamet. Tony reports that some Truro growers have moved product from the ADA to the Little Pamet to over winter. Tony has also placed remote set oyster bags adjacent to already productive oyster beds in the Pamet Harbor. SAC discussed funding sources which included the Town Shellfish budget and funds from Barnstable County. The quahog relay is funded with $5,300 from Barnstable County. The town budget funds available for shellfish were $6,600 for 2021. SAC discussed requesting an amount more than 2021. Gary asked about the process of creating a revolving shellfish fund which could be funded with non-resident shellfish permit fees. The purpose of the fund would be to make funds available throughout the year for the purchase of seed, remote set and relay product. The
availability and pricing for seed and relay clams vary greatly seasonally and the fund would allow the Shellfish Department to take advantage of buying opportunities when they arise. A motion was made by Chris to move ahead with creating a Shellfish Revolving Fund. Nick seconded the motion. Mark yes, Gary yes, Chris yes, Matt yes, Nick yes. The motion carries. Gary will check with BOS liaison Bob Weinstein about the process and report back to the SAC.

The SAC also discussed exploring shellfish funding opportunities outside of public sources.

UPDATE ON GRANT STATUS: Gary reported that he and Tony applied for, and The Town of Truro has received a grant in the amount of $10,000 from the Mass. Dept. of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to assist Massachusetts Shellfish persons who have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. $7,500 is available immediately and the balance of $2,500 will be distributed upon receipt of a written report by 6/30/2022. The Shellfish Dept. is purchasing adult and juvenile oysters from Truro ADA oyster growers that will be to be placed in the Pamet. The SAC applauded Gary and Tony for the work they did in obtaining this grant which will not only add seed and approximately 15,000 adult oysters to the Pamet but will provide needed economic aid to our local growers in Truro. Great job Gary & Tony.

SHELLFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARGE: Gary asked for feedback on the draft charge that was distributed to SAC members. SAC members offered several minor changes. Chris questioned whether education and outreach falls should be addressed in the charge and the SAC agreed that although important including it in the charge was not appropriate, but this should be an agenda item at a future meeting. Mark moved to approve the charge as amended, Nick seconded the motion. Mark yes, Gary yes, Chris yes, Matt yes, Nick yes. The motion carries.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Mark moved the slate of officers of Dan Smith – Chair, Gary Sharpless – Vice Chair, Chris Clark – Secretary. Chris seconded the motion. Mark yes, Gary yes, Chris yes, Matt yes, Nick yes. The motion carries.


MOTION TO ADJOURN. 4:42 PM. Moved Nick, second Mark. Chris yes, Dan yes, Nick yes, Steve, yes, Mark yes, Gary yes. The motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Wisotzky, Secretary

TOWN OF TRURO
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TOWN CLERK