

**TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT
SHELLFISH COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Thursday, May 23, 2019

5:00 PM

**Town Hall Meeting Room
21 Sea Street
Northeast Harbor**

Members Present: Victor Doyle, Earl Moore, Brian Silverman, Rustin Taylor, and Town Clerk Claire Woolfolk. Also present were Commercial License holder David Dunton; Warden, Kevin Edgecomb, Town Manager, Durlin Lunt; DMR Biologist Heidi Leighton, and members of the public: John Stanley (SWH), Chris Petersen (Bar Harbor), Emma Ober, Jim Colquhoun, and Richard Hopke (Tremont)

I. Call to order 5:00 p.m.

Victor Doyle called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

II. Warden Update

Kevin Edgecomb, Warden, reported no activity on the flats. He said he checks in the evening and Leigh Guildford checks during the day. Neither had any problems to report at this time.

He said the licensed diggers are pretty good for calling when they see someone who doesn't belong.

III. State Update

Heidi Leighton reviewed a new law (LD 960) which would allow towns to set minimum/maximum size limits that manage resources via ordinance.

Victor did not recommend placing size limits on harvesting clams.

Heidi reported that she attended the Acadia National Park Schoodic Institution group meeting of state personnel and harvesters geared towards sharing information regarding what is going on scientifically in the inter-tidal fishing industry and other projects. No discussion of new regulatory items.

Victor stated that he did not agree with the platform of the meeting and did not attend. He spoke to the meeting organizer afterward who said the

focus was on scientific projects and information on harvesting in the area of Frenchman's Bay. She also said federal park rangers and local/state wardens would be checking to see if harvesters have clam licenses. State management would be ahead of any federal jurisdiction.

Victor felt there should be open discussions at these meetings; there would be a lot of tip-toeing between the agencies.

IV. Discussion of MDI Clam Committee option

Discussion of the MDI Clam Committee option in response to reciprocal regional program with an eye towards an island-wide co-op Clam Management Committee. The committee would include a representative from each town.

Southwest Harbor is open to the discussions (SWH has recreational harvesting only).

Tremont, Richard Hopke, is for putting together a committee (Tremont has recreational harvesting only).

Bar Harbor, Chris Petersen, said there are a lot of positives for this idea. It would make sense to work collaboratively. He mentioned that the 7-town collective counsel (Frenchboro, Cranberry Isles, Swans Island and MDI towns) would make it difficult to make any changes; they must get everyone together to make any changes and would be almost impossible. He said it might be easier with only the four MDI towns.

Durlin Lunt, Mt. Desert Town Manager, suggested that each town present to their councils the idea for select board/council approval (i.e. interlocal agreement). Some of the details to discuss would be what power/authority would the committee/group have; would there be options for harvest or day limits and could they be set in the weekend, limit commercial harvesters in Bar Harbor? He asked Victor to see if he could get his hands on the charter/agreement from the Ellsworth group regional program.

Heidi suggested an alternative to a formal regional program would be a reciprocal agreement to amongst the towns with shared law enforcement within the towns. Damariscotta has something like this where the harvester purchases the license in their own town, but they have the right to harvest in the other towns in the agreement.

Victor asked that each chair put together a list of pros and cons for their community for joining a single management group and that they come together to discuss the benefits/interests/concerns in the fall.

V. Clam Transplant Project

Nothing to report.

VI. Allocation Plan Approval for 2019

The committee reviewed the Allocation Plan and agreed to accept as presented.

MOTION: Moved and seconded (Silverman/Doyle) to accept the 2019 Allocation Plan as presented. Motion passed 4-0

VII. Such other business as may be legally conducted

None presented.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: moved and seconded (Silverman/Taylor) to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm.