

**TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT
SHELLFISH COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Thursday, March 30, 2023

5:00 PM

**Town Hall Meeting Room
21 Sea Street
Northeast Harbor
(or ZOOM)**

Members Present: David Dunton, Brian Silverman (via Zoom), Rustin Taylor, and Town Clerk Claire Woolfolk. Also present were DMR Biologist Hannah Annis, Richard Taylor, and Tiffany Tate (all via Zoom).

I. Call to order 5:05 p.m.

II. Approval of 10/27/2022 Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Taylor moved, with Mr. Dunton seconding, to approve the minutes of 10/27/2022. Motion carried 3-0.

III. Warden Update

No wardens were able to be present; Town Clerk Woolfolk spoke with Warden Guildford earlier and confirmed they had nothing to report.

IV. State Update

Hannah Annis introduced herself as the DMR biologist assigned to our area under Near Shore Marine Resources Program (renamed from the Municipal Management Program) with Director Meredith White, out of Boothbay Harbor office, in charge.

Ms. Annis enquired about Mount Desert's interest in water quality updates. The committee expressed an interest and suggested that Ed Montague of the Town's Wastewater Management department attend a future meeting to report on the water quality of Gilpatrick Cove. Ms. Annis suggested that Water Quality personnel could attend a meeting or come down to try to identify where the problem is.

In the meantime, having some water quality information disseminated from DMR to the committee would be helpful. It was suggested getting town-wide information with a focus on Gilpatrick Cove would be a good place to begin.

Committee members recalled the history of the Gilpatrick Cove issue; it appears that there are probably several homes with archaic septic systems that need to be updated (but are grandfathered) and they could be the source of the problem. Ms. Annis stated that the process begins with DMR water quality staff (Hannah Horecka) working with the Town's LPI/CEO officer, but that DEP is the enforcement authority for this issue; they are also the ones who would have money (i.e. small community grant) to help, administer, or have information on how to proceed.

The last information included in the Gilpatrick Cove file was from 2016. There was a walk-through done on the area for resources in 2018 by DMR and Shellfish committee members.

DMR is requesting our Town Management Plan (back from 2000) or create a new one. If we are unable to locate the original plan, DMR will provide a template and request that a plan be submitted by the end of year.

V. Old Business:

Mr. Taylor reported on Dr. Peterson's research on water samples from Pirate's Cove and areas in Mount Desert, including Pretty Marsh showing the microbial contamination results are mammals, but not human, deer or cow. Dogs are part of the problem, but the proportion of dogs vs. wild animals is unknown. Bird contamination level is low, specifically tested for geese.

Mr. Taylor then touched on the prior discussion regarding the potential to put out clam recruitment boxes at identified locations. Dr. Peterson reported that Acadia National Park would like him to amend the Army Core of Engineers Permit for Otter Creek to add any site that wasn't in the initial permit. We will need to identify what specific locations we want to include from Mount Desert in the permit and indicate that to Dr. Peterson. Mr. Taylor indicated that he would be willing to work with Dr. Peterson on this.

MOTION: Mr. Taylor moved, with Mr. Silverman seconding, to designate Rustin Taylor as point person to identify sites in Otter Creek to be included in the permit for the clam recruitment box on Dr. Peterson's application, which needs to be done within the next month. Motion carried 3-0.

VI. New Business:

A. Removal of Benjamin Hamor as member of Shellfish Committee per Shellfish Ordinance Sec. 3.G.

G. Committee members shall make every effort to regularly attend Committee meetings. Any Committee member who misses more than two consecutive unexcused absences shall lose their seat on the Committee.

It was noted that several attempts had been made to contact Mr. Hamor with no response. It has been several years since Mr. Hamor attended a meeting, nor is he currently holding a license; therefore, it was recommended that he be removed from the committee.

Mr. Dunton commented that the committee should be careful about removing someone because they hadn't attended meetings, noting the absence of Mr. Moore. The committee felt that there was a distinction between missing a meeting or two and not attending for several years. Also, if Mr. Hamor chooses to re-activate his place on the committee, he can do so at any time.

MOTION: Mr. Silverman moved, with Mr. Taylor seconding, to remove Mr. Hamor from the committee in accordance with the Shellfish Ordinance Sec. 3.G. Motion carried 3-0.

The committee asked that the list of residential licenses sold be sent to the committee members so that members could reach out to people on the list for potential interest in serving on the committee.

B. 2022 Annual Review to DMR

Discussion only to review the submission to DMR. The report has not changed from the year before.

C. Allocation Plan Approval for 2023

MOTION: Mr. Taylor moved, with Mr. Dunton seconding, to keep the allocation plan as is.

Class	Subclass	Amount	Cost
Commercial	Resident	9	\$150.00
Commercial	Nonresident	1	\$300.00
Recreational	Resident	No Limit Set	\$30.00
Recreational	Nonresident	No Number Set*	\$50.00

**One to one (one non-resident for every resident license sold) up to 10 licenses; then one non-resident license for every 5 (five) resident licenses sold.*

Motion carried 3-0.

D. Discussion of Conservation efforts, such as coastal clean-up

Mr. Taylor asked Ms. Annis if DMR still sponsored nationwide coastal clean-up with sites already determined and that it might be a way for committee members and interested parties to participate. There are other days, such as Earth Day in April that may lend towards a clean-up. Ms. Annis said she would check into this.

VII. Such other business as may be legally conducted

Mr. Dunton questioned the Blue Hill warden situation. Apparently, their warden resigned last June; a new warden was just hired the prior week. Ms. Annis confirmed that they now have enforcement.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Taylor moved, with Mr. Dunton seconding, to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.