

Minutes
Shellfish Advisory Board
Jan. 18, 2012

Present: Barbara Austin, Barbara Brennessel, John Duane, Jim O'Connell, Becca Taylor, Helen Miranda Wilson

Regrets: Joel Fox

Others in Attendance: Andy Koch, Shellfish Warden, Peggy Jennings Clark

1. The meeting convened at 6:10 pm
2. The minutes from Dec. 28, 2011 were approved as amended (5-0; one abstention)
3. SPAT will be meeting on Jan. 20 at 4:30 in the Old Mooney Building. Members of the SAB were invited to attend to discuss Vibrio. It was also mentioned that SPAT might need additional help with Oysterfest, and they were looking for volunteers to help organize the event.
4. Helen M.W. announced that she would look into the SAB budget and call Mike Hickey about batch tagging.
5. Terms for membership for the SAB are not specified in the TM article which established the SAB in 1965. Traditionally, terms have been for 1 year. Helen M.W. moved to ask the BOS to make appointments to the SAB for 3 year terms. The SAB unanimously approved this recommendation.
6. The Friends of the Herring River has asked to meet with the SAB to plan for outreach and input from the shellfishing community into the Herring River Restoration Project. Barbara B. will invite Don Palladino, and Helen M.W. will invite Gary Joseph to an SAB meeting on March 12, 2012 at 7 pm.
7. The next meeting was scheduled for Feb 1 at 6 pm.
8. There was extensive discussion about a small boat identification proposal from the Conservation Commission. The SAB identified 6 areas of concern to the shellfishing community whose livelihood depends on access to shellfishing areas or grants:
The SAB identified 6 areas of concern to the shellfishing community whose livelihood depends on access to shellfishing areas or grants:
 1. The time period for the sticker program does not work for shellfishermen. They require year-round access to their skiffs. Perhaps they can be issued a differently colored sticker.

2. There is an important educational opportunity when folks are issued stickers for their small boats; they should be educated about the presence of grants and told to be careful/avoid these areas when kayaking, canoeing, etc.
3. There are about 5 skiffs kept at Powers Landing by shellfishermen. If space is at a premium, the owners of these vessels should have priority.
4. Boat stickers don't seem to be necessary for folks who have slips. Folks who have moorings must have priority.
5. A few shellfishermen have more than one vessel (perhaps at different landings to access grants at different areas of the Harbor). Shellfishermen should be able to have up to 2 stickers.
6. If there is a limit to the number of vessels at landings and/or a limit to the number of stickers, it is important that commercial shellfish permit holders and individuals who have licenses for aquaculture be given priority.

Barbara B. agreed to send these recommendations to the Conservation Commission.

9. Barbara A. announced that there would be a talk at the library, 2pm on Jan. 21, about shellfish gardening on Long Island.
10. Andy Koch asked the SAB for advice about managing shellfish beds in Duck Creek. After discussion about the restoration project at Duck Creek and the partial closure already in place, there was a motion to have no further closures of Duck Creek until the results of the 3year study are evaluated. The motion was seconded and approved (6-0)
11. The SAB discussed the information about locations of candy cane poles and closed areas near the Herring River to be included in the Appendix to the Shellfishing Policy and Regulations. Andy Koch may have to get additional information on the location of two markers.
12. The SAB discussed section 3.1 of the draft Rules and Regulations and changed the wording to comply with MGL.
13. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Brennessel