

Minutes
Shellfish Advisory Board
Oct 05, 2016
Town Hall

Present: John Duane, Barbara Austin, Jacob Puffer, Zack Dixon, Jim O'Connell
Regrets: Rebecca Taylor, Tom Siggia,

Others in Attendance: John Mankevetch (assistant constable), Andy Koch (Shellfish Constable), Christopher Manulla (deputy constable), Helen Miranda Wilson, Don Palladino, Pat Woodbury, Richard Blakely, Eben Kenny, Michelle Insley, Jodi Birchall,
Meeting called to order, 7:05 p.m.

1. MINUTES

Jake moved to approve minutes from March 30, 2016. Tom seconded. Minutes passed 6-0

2. MICHELLE INSLEY - UPDATES ON OYSTERFEST

Cool stuff happening:

Panel discussion on Marine Debris from 5 Gyres
Film on marine sonic disturbance
Refillable water stations

This has attracted the like of Whole Foods, Sam Adams and Tesla who will be participating this year.

Schedule of events on the Oysterfest website.

3. JOHN DUANE UPDATES

HORSESHOE CRABS -

John presented a DMF report on Horseshoe crab population in Massachusetts. He said that the bottom line is that the population is dwindling.

Jim - they are bumping up the quota because of pressure from the medical industry.

John - Audubon is still doing its study. They say that there is some data indicating that there are a good number of small horseshoe crabs in Wellfleet.

John thinks that we need to do something simple like establishing a baseline population number. Basically, we need to come up with some new reasons to suspend horseshoe crab fishing in Wellfleet since the 2013 petition was rejected.

Pat Woodbury - Just decimating a certain species is a good enough reason to look into the issue.

Zack - can we use Audubon's data?

John - Yes

Helen - it was a moratorium that we requested, not a closure.

- data showing horseshoe crabs eating worms similar to bamboo worms.
- there have been areas that have limited harvest to medical only.
- Anectodally, she has been told that they eat small mussels (good for aquaculture).
- there are new people on the state marine advisory board
- this harbor has more aquaculture than other harbors

John - this will take time. It will be a lengthy process, but we need to have our ducks in a row.

Jim - I think the DMF has a responsibility to the fishermen who fish for them. There is a very small number of fishermen fishing for horseshoe crabs (3 people).

Richard Blakely - the fishermen are not reporting their catch properly, they are grossly underreporting.

THANK YOU LETTER TO HILLARY GREENSBURG

Jake made a motion to approve the letter, Barbara seconded. Approved 5-0.

4. PESTICIDE USE IN THE HERRING RIVER

Helen sits in on the HRRP meetings.

Laura Runkle (sp?) made Helen aware that in the EIS it is proposed that pesticides will be used as a vegetation control tool.

Tim Smith is the vegetation expert for the Park. He suggested to a Lieutenants Island group the use of pesticide to control phragmites as well as poisoning shorebird predators. That group rejected both out of hand. So, he (and the Park) know how townspeople feel about pesticides.

Helen called Tim Smith about this and he confirmed that pesticides will be available as a tool. Tonight is the first public meeting where it has been discussed.

Helen will sit in on the next HRRc meeting and ask why this has **never** been discussed in previous meetings.

Jodi Birchall - I did read the FEIR. It does not refer to roundup but, to glyphosate. It describes it as the first line of defense against phragmites. The phragmites is clogging the river and the whole project relies on freeing up the flow. The FEIR states that the first step is to spray the phragmites to get down to the root then cut it down and inject into the roots. This stuff will get into our harbor, our water and everywhere else.

While looking into this Jodi has found that they have been using it on Herring Pond.

Jodi stated that she is here because she is shocked and flabbergasted and the use of this pesticide is not ok. She feels that this has been snuck in by the Park (has not been discussed publicly)

Barbara spoke with the Audubon and asked what is so bad about phragmites. He said that they do support many species, but the root systems do slow water flow.

Helen - I would like a clear letter from SAB to BOS and Friends of Herring River stating our SAB's objection to the use of pesticides in the Herring River.

Don Palladino - the vegetation plan has not been written. The EIC is not the implementing plan for the Herring River. Right now, the committee is writing the actual vegetation management plan. It will probably be written in the next 6-8 months. When it is written it has to have a public hearing. The two towns and the Park Service have to come to agreement.

Jake Puffer - What if the Park decides to just go ahead and spray on their land?

Richard - Since 2001, the Park service has changed. The Park people used to be a bunch of biologists, now they are gun slingers. I don't trust them or for that matter HRRc. This is my livelihood and it's all I've got. I will not go down without a battle. Things are good right now, why do we want to chance this?

Jodi - Mike Parlante has some data that shows that anywhere a river mouth empties onto shellfish beds, there are many closures. Also, reading the section on vegetation in the FEIR makes me not trust the other sections. I am here to keep the SAB informed and I will continue to do so. If it ain't broke, don't fix it . . . especially if the risks are so great.

Don - one of the objectives of this project is to enhance and grow the shellfish industry.

-the EIR that we are referring to is required as part of a federal application, it is not an implementation plan. When the new bridge is complete, the water flow will not be changed until it is agreed upon by the Executive Council (Wellfleet, Truro, Park Service).

Eben Kenny - this is a huge project, where is the common sense?

Jodi - Why is this not up for a town vote?

Don - There needs to be a clear way of communicating the facts.

Jake - SAB needs to take up the issues of the HRRP and form some stances on the project and its various issues.

Jodi - implores SAB to read other studies (not just associated with this project)

Barbara A. - We were told at the beginning that High Toss Rd would not be closed. Now we find out that there may be pesticide use. I feel like the wool is slowly being pulled over our eyes.

Richard - The Park doesn't look at this town like we do. They see the project as a feather in their cap. They don't live here.

John Duane - this board would like to be kept apprised of the status of the use of pesticides in the HRRP. Also, the marsh is degrading, so keep that in mind.

Barbara A. - Did Friends of Herring River know about the use of pesticides before now?

Don - We knew it was there, but we did not focus on it.

5. FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

BOS had to ok a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan. There is virtually nothing in that plan about shellfish or aquaculture. She brought that to their attention and they added some mitigation for shellfish.

6. SHELLFISH DEPT. UPDATE

CULTCH

Barbara - How did the clutching go this year?

Andy - Horrible. Andy stated that he had great difficulty getting cultch from New Bedford, New Hampshire or anywhere else. When he did find someone, it was pulverized shell. Another source fell through. so, this year was bad.

For next year, Andy has contacted a trucking company in Gloucester. It is more expensive, because Noons used to charge 1/2 rate.

Pat - How about the DPW? Andy - They don't like doing it. DPW used to give me three weeks, then two. Now, they give me one week.

Pat - Can't they haul back some cultch back after an off-cape trash haul?

Andy - I need to make an appointment with BOS to get some help.

Helen suggested to have the dates and all cultch lined up before going in front of BOS?

Barbara A. ideas:

- Wellfleet Shellfish Co. is shucking clams now

- American Mussel trucks empty coming on Cape?

Barbara A. - Will there be a plan to avoid dumping cultch on working beds or on any study areas?

Andy - The seashore wants me to buoy and GPS and put markers on the beach.

TOWN SHELLFISH BED

Barbara A. - Are we moving?

Andy - The TA asked if we want to pay the \$2500 to the Zimmermans. Andy said that we should pay for one more year. We do have a spot on Indian Neck. DMF said that is ok, just buoy it off.

Barbara A. - How many clams did we have this year?

VIBRIO CONCERNS

Barbara - Was there a vibrio case from a quahog from Wellfleet?

Andy - Yes, Chris Sellacci said one clam and one oyster.

Jim - Where is the documentation?

Barbara - ask DMF for the report.

Barbara A. - Any plans for making the dates for hats in the cove permanent? Andy - Yes, I talked to Mike Hickey and he is confident that we can get it done.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.