

Shellfish Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday October 9, 2019
6:00 p.m. Library

Dave Seitler called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Attended: Dave Seitler, John Duane, Zack Dixon, Tom Siggia, Jacob Puffer, Chip Benton

Regrets: Rebecca Taylor

Others in attendance: John Riehl (NRAB), Martha Craig (FOHR)

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes

**Jake Puffer made a motion to approve minutes from September 17, 2019.
John Duane seconded, motion passed 6-0.**

2. Shellfish Dept. update

Nancy Civetta gave highlights from the September report. The report is available on the WSD website page; <https://www.wellfleet-ma.gov/shellfish-department>

3. Boat Regulations: Discussion and Vote

discussion of current regs and potential changes:

- Nancy has had trouble finding old regs
- 20% by catch limit and why it exists? it's not being enforced right now.
- lots of complaints/questions
 - vessel limits, abuse
 - people targeting bays and bloods at the same time
- what would happen if we got rid of the by catch limit? Nancy wants to understand why it was put in to the regs in the first place

no draggers present at the meeting

4. Discuss/Approve HRRP follow up support letter

Friends of Herring River has requested an updated letter of support to include with their current permit application. SAB reviewed the letter and recommended a clarification of the University of Chicago report and a reference to the new structure being completed in the next five years.

Zack made a motion to recommend submitting the updated letter of support for the Herring River Restoration Project to the Wellfleet Selectboard, the Cape Cod National Seashore and our Congressman, Senators and Representatives. Jake Puffer seconded, passed 6-0. (Attachment 1)

5. Update on National Resources Advisory Board Harbor Management Plan

Tom gave an update on SAB representative to NRAB especially in regard to Harbor Management Plan.

NRAB monitors all natural resources in the Harbor.

John Riehl from NRAB stated that they are looking for input from SAB regarding concerns for the future as they pertain to shellfishing.

Dave Seitler suggested a couple members from SAB get together with NRAB to form a working group.

Helen suggested that SAB review the Harbor Management Plan, highlight some areas that need to be updated, then have a joint meeting.

John - Harbor Plan presentation on Nov 2 at 8:30 at Elementary School

6. Shellfishing Program at Herring River Stakeholders Group meeting Nov. 6

Martha from FOHR asked for someone from SAB to be involved in their presentation at the Nov. 6 meeting.

Zack asked for concerns, comments and input to bring to the next HRSG meeting.

- monitoring and adaptive management
- examples of impact to shellfishing from similar projects
- liability and compensation plan if shellfishing is negatively impacted

7. Discussion about potential new employee for WSD and initiation of grant service fee

8. Plastics in the Harbor

topics included:

- zip ties vs. bungee method
- grow out bags
- vibrio and micro plastics
- clam netting
- potential impact to farmed shellfish in case of public backlash
- grants to help the transition to different methods
- choosing one plastic and addressing that issue
- cost effective alternatives
- incremental changes rather than all at once

next steps - Jake will ask SPAT about possible funding sources

9. Shellfish Management Plan and climate change

10. November meeting Date and Agenda items

Harbor management plan/Shellfish management plan
Boat Regulations
Plan for allowing dragging in channel before dredging
Marina and sub area of CCB-13

Next meeting November 20 at 6pm at Library

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

To: The Wellfleet Selectboard
Brian Carlstrom, Superintendent, Cape Cod National Seashore

Cc: Congressman William Keating Senator Julian Cyr
Senator Elizabeth Warren Senator Edward Markey Representative Sarah Peake
Friends of Herring River

From: The Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board
Dear Superintendent Carlstrom, and members of the Wellfleet Selectboard:

October 10, 2019

The Wellfleet shellfish Advisory Board at its October 9, 2019 meeting voted unanimously to convey our continued support for the Herring River restoration project as originally conveyed in a letter dated June 19, 2017. Since that time, the makeup of our board has undergone some changes, and we felt it was time to restate our strong support for the project. All in all, there have been over 100 meetings regarding this project including public meetings, and one-on-one individual meetings with private landowners, as well as in other public venues in Wellfleet and Truro. We still believe that restoring controlled tidal flow in line with current science, and closer to a flow rate that existed before installation of the Chequessett Neck Road tide gate will benefit those in the shellfishing community, the residents of Wellfleet, and those species of anadromous fish that use the Herring River estuary to spawn each year. Ever since the original structure was installed over 100 years ago, shellfishing has suffered in the area adjacent to the tide gate due to high levels of fecal coliform present resulting from restricted tidal flushing. Improving the amount of water flowing upstream and downstream of the new dike will surely be of great service towards improving water quality to provide for the needs of the shellfish, anadromous fish and wildlife native to the area.

In an era when going GREEN has become all the rage, and climate change is an increasingly apparent threat, it is of particular concern to our board - for the obvious reasons associated with changes in sea level, ocean temperature and acidification, to do anything that would help slow the effects of a changing climate to maintain our robust shellfishing resource. One of the ancillary benefits of salt marsh restoration is in reducing methane emissions (a major contributor in climate change) as outlined in a University of Chicago [Marine Biological Laboratory](#) report. In it is a detailed

[scientific report](#) which considers “The benefits of Restoring tides to reduce methane emissions in impounded wetlands: A new and potent Blue Carbon climate change intervention”. That report could have been written with the Herring River in mind. The Herring River estuary could indeed become a shining example of a successful salt marsh restoration by reversing the negative consequences of blocking tidal flow all those years ago.

Please move forward as previously requested in obtaining the necessary permits for the timely construction of a new dike at Chequessett Neck Road. Our board looks forward to seeing a new and improved structure completed within the next 5 years.

,
The Wellfleet Shellfish Advisory Board

Dave Seitler - Chair, Chip Benton, Zack Dixon, John Duane Jacob Puffer, Tom Siggia, Rebecca Taylor