

Shellfish Conservation Committee
January 4, 2021
Bristol Town Hall

Committee Members present: Scott Burke, David Cheney, Steve Lackovic, Ronald Poland

The meeting was called to order at 6:37am.

Schoolhouse Cove.

Cheney asked if Schoolhouse Cove had opened. Bizarro responded that the conservation opening permit had been approved by DMR from December 15 to May 1. Lackovic and Poland noted that the cove had a lot of clam seed ranging in size from 1 to 1¼ inch and it was the second year in a row they had seen a lot of seed. There was concern that many of the small clams would be killed by opening the area to digging.

Minutes.

On a motion by Lackovic and seconded by Cheney, the minutes from November were approved unanimously.

Lower Pemaquid Watershed Plan.

After discussion on what would be the best next steps for work on the Lower Watershed Plan, it was decided to focus on the Eastern Branch. In June 2018, DMR changed the classification for the Eastern Branch from approved to conditionally approved. This classification change closed the Eastern Branch to harvesting from June 1 through August 31. The Eastern Branch, divided by Bristol and South Bristol, has historically been an area with high clam landings. There are several feeder brooks that feed into the Eastern Branch along the Harrington Road. There is also a cemetery and field that border the flats providing a popular habitat for Canadian geese. Bizarro will ask FB Environmental for their recommendation on next steps for the watershed plan and to see if DNA testing is a good idea for the Eastern Branch area. Water quality and DNA testing was considered at Pemaquid Falls Landing. An ongoing monitoring program for the watershed was also considered.

Grant.

The Maine Shellfish Restoration and Resilience Fund has grant opportunities again for 2021. The deadline to apply for the grant is January 19, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:30 at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted

Rachel Bizarro
Shellfish Conservation Committee Secretary