

Shellfish Conservation Committee
April 5, 2021
Bristol Town Hall

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

Also present: Brent Barter (via telephone), Pat Poole

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.

The committee reviewed minutes from March 2020 to March 2021. A vote to accept the minutes will be taken at their May meeting.

Shellfish Warden.

Barter joined the meeting via telephone. He has offered his services for Shellfish Warden to Bristol and South Bristol. Poaching has increased over the last few months and both towns are concerned with the amount of resource that is being lost. LCSO currently has a contract with both towns. The terms of the current contract specify warden services are not to exceed 121 hours or \$3780. The billable hours provided by LCSO over the last three years have averaged 24.5 hours. LCSO has not been able to fill the position of Shellfish Warden for several years due to being short-staffed and/or a lack of interest in the position.

Barter previously worked for LCSO and provided Shellfish Warden services to Bristol and South Bristol from 2009 – 2012. He is currently working in the construction industry and has a somewhat flexible schedule. He is requesting \$30/hour with a minimum of 10/hrs. per week. Most of his hours would be worked on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. DMR Warden training is required within one year of appointment. If the Warden will have power of arrest or carry a firearm, they must complete the Maine Criminal Justice Academy course. Barter has taken the law enforcement course and sees no issues with being able to take the Warden training within one year. If hired, Barter would be required to share his cell phone and email for communications.

Cheney said drive-by coverage is not enough and not effective and having a warden in hip boots working the flats would help with the poaching. Termine stated that Barter is familiar with the flats in Bristol and South Bristol from when he worked for LCSO.

Lackovic noted that they would need permission from both committees and Board of Selectmen. And wondered if having two contracts would work. Poole though the towns should discuss the issue with LCSO.

Conservation.

This year's work will be transplanting American oysters from the Damariscotta River (Houston's Landing) to the Upper Pemaquid River. All participants are to meet at Houston's Landing on May 1 at 7am and May 2 at 7:30am.

Poland will also set green crab traps in the Pemaquid River over the summer months.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 6:30 at the Town Hall. Agenda items to include: Shellfish warden services.

Respectfully Submitted

Rachel Bizarro

Shellfish Conservation Committee Secretary