

Shellfish Conservation Committee
January 6, 2020
Bristol Town Hall

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

Also present: Dan Sullivan (Broad Arrow Farm), Maggie Mills (FB Environmental)

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm.

Minutes

On a motion by Lackovic and seconded by R. Poland, the minutes of December 2 were approved unanimously.

Watershed Project.

Maggie Mills joined the group via telephone and gave a full review of the 2019 Pemaquid River Monitoring Report. She began by emphasizing that fecal contamination is the hardest pollutant for finding the original source. *E. coli* is used as an indicator for other potentially harmful pathogens, the behavior of fecal indicator bacteria in the environment and fecal tracking is always evolving.

She described the 2019 sampling. Based on results of sampling in 2018, bracket sampling was completed at 4 sites on the School House Cove tributary, 3 sites on the Coombs Cove tributary, and 5 sites at the Redonnett Mill Road tributary. Water samples at all locations were analyzed for *E. coli*, as well as nitrate/nitrite, phosphates, ammonia and optical brighteners all of which can help determine whether the contamination is from humans. Three samples from Little Falls Brook were collected for human, Canadian goose and beaver DNA analysis. Additionally, 3 samples from Redonnett Mill tributary, 1 sample from School House Cove tributary and 1 sample from Coombs Cove tributary were collected for human DNA analysis. The Redonnett Mill tributary was also sampled for Canadian goose DNA analysis.

Mills reviewed the DNA results. Canadian goose and beaver were found in the Little Falls Brook tributary. Samples from the Redonnett Mill tributary were absent of goose and human but did have an overall higher presence of *E.coli* than the other sampling sites. Human was found in the School House Cove tributary. The Coombs Cove tributary was absent of all.

Mills reviewed recommendations: Septic inventory of the School House Cove tributary. Install vegetative buffers at all locations. Consider DNA analysis for agricultural markers at the Redonnett Mill tributary. Further testing along Little Brook Falls was not recommended.

Sullivan spoke to the committee about Broad Arrow Farm. They have a regenerative organic approach to farming and they continually work to strengthen the health of the farm's topsoil. They do not use pesticides/chemicals, they use an organic non-GMO feed, animals are continually rotated to different fields so there are no concentrated areas of manure, and they continually reseed areas for vegetation.

Sullivan questioned whether the river would be removed from DEPs "impaired" list if remedial measures were taken upstream of the Redonnett Mills tributary. Mills answered no. She said

the sampling and report represent a snapshot in time. The data set used is small and lots of little things contribute to non-source pollution and to not be alarmed by the sampling finds near the Redonnett Mill tributary. In addition, weather can play a role in results. As an example, 2019 saw a very wet, late spring.

Grant.

The Maine Shellfish Restoration and Resilience Project is again offering grant funds for management improvement and conservation of shellfish flats. Everyone agreed unanimously to apply for this grant. The focus will be sampling along the tributary system that enters School House Cove with a septic inventory of the area. They would also like to do some sampling at Pemaquid Falls for agricultural DNA analysis. The deadline for the proposal is January 16, 2020.

Ordinance Amendments

Currently, all shellfish licenses go on sale the first business day of a new year. All shellfish licenses expire on the last day of each year. This causes a 'gap' of time when commercial harvesters technically do not hold a municipal license to harvest clams. The sale of commercial licenses is addressed in the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance on page 3, second paragraph. On a motion by Lackovic and seconded by Burke it was unanimously agreed to change the second and third sentence of the above mentioned paragraph to read as follows: **"Grandfathered licenses will be available for issue from December 15th until the last Friday in January of each year. Any licenses remaining after this period will be dispersed by lottery as allocated."** This amendment will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen and a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, February 3 @ 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 3 immediately after the Public Hearing for the above ordinance amendments. Agenda items to include: Pemaquid River Watershed Project

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Bizarro