

Shellfish Conservation Committee
February 3, 2020
Bristol Town Hall

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:43pm.

Minutes

On a motion by Lackovic and seconded by Cheney, the minutes of January 6 were approved unanimously.

Watershed Project.

A proposal from FB Environmental for the next stage of the Pemaquid Watershed Plan was reviewed. The proposal suggested intensive follow-up sampling in Schoolhouse Cove and its tributaries due to the presence of human DNA found in 2019 sampling, It also suggested a septic system risk assessment of the Schoolhouse Cove area and a septic system inspection at Bristol Consolidated School. The proposed costs for this stage of the watershed plan were higher than expected.

A pipe from the old septic system at the school is still located in Schoolhouse Cove. It appears that nothing is draining out of it. The committee is interested in a timeline of septic work done at the school and to contact whoever did the septic replacement in 2013.

Grant.

Tony Sutton from The Maine Shellfish Restoration and Resilience Project contacted Cheney about the grant proposal. Cheney reported Sutton was interested in the oyster project in the upper portion of the estuary.

Conservation.

A suggestion to create a conservation area where the oysters are growing in Upper Pemaquid River was considered. This would provide protection from summer harvesters. Other conservation ideas for the spring included transplanting more oysters to Upper Pemaquid River, offering conservation assistance at Broad Arrow Farms such as donating a rubber bottom for a pond and/or planting cattail along the farm's river edge, and donating bags of grass seed to land owners abutting the Pemaquid River.

Communications.

Cheney shared an email he had written to a local farm owner. Bizarro shared an email from DMRs Bryant Lewis. The email explained the difference between DMRs Investigative Report and Growing Area Report. It also provided contact information for the Growing Area Biologist. The committee asked that she be invited to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2 at 6:30 at the Town Hall. Agenda items to include: Olivia Mercier, DMR Growing Area Biologist and DMR Investigative Report & Growing Area Report