

Shellfish Conservation Committee

May 7th, 2018

Bristol Town Hall

Committee Members present: Dave Cheney, Steve Lackovic, Ronald Poland, Steve Termine

Also present: Hannah Annis (DMR); Kohl Kanwit (DMR); Rand Maker (LCSO); Denis-Marc Nault (DMR); Amy O'Brien; James Read (LCSO); Benjamin Sack

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by chair Steve Lackovic.

K. Kanwit introduced herself as head of DMR's Bureau of Public Health. She stated the Bureau of Public Health oversaw municipal shellfish management and the shellfish water quality program. She referred to 12 MRSA, Section 6671.

A complaint made against the Bristol Shellfish Committee was received by DMR earlier this year. The complaint was based on a Bristol resident unable to obtain a commercial harvest license. Kohl explained that a typical response to this type of complaint is for DMR to perform a survey of the municipal flats. Once DMR has the survey findings they can/will make an impartial recommendation for license allocations.

Kanwit had examined the past five years of Bristol's Annual Shellfish Review. She noted that Warden hours had dropped considerable for the 2017 calendar year. She pointed out that DMR has no authority to tell the municipality how many warden hours are appropriate nor is DMR allowed to take action against the town if they feel the warden services are not adequate. R. Bizarro asked about marine patrol and their responsibilities. Kanwit said the marine patrol is responsible for checking closed areas due to pollution. And that municipal warden services are responsible for checking municipal conservation closures and harvesters. R. Maker stated that warden hours for Bristol/South Bristol have already increased for this calendar year and he pointed out that hours are shared with South Bristol so actual hours reported on the Annual Reviews should be doubled to account for that. Cheney pointed out that LCSO offers better quality when it came to warden services.

Kohl indicated that DMR would be implementing new municipal requirements in the future. She said notification and information on the process of rule-making will be sent via DMR's email notification system.

Kohl said they would schedule the surveys for the summer months. Possibly June and July depending on the tides. She strongly encouraged participation from the town's commercial license holders. D. Nault noted that DMR utilizes a standardized survey to enhance the scientific view of the resource. DMR currently plans to survey the Pemaquid River and Bristol's side of the Eastern Branch. When asked what other areas the committee would like surveyed, Lackovic requested that Bristol's portion of the Damariscotta River be included. Maps indicating this area were given to Kanwit.

Razor Clams.

Due to water quality and unavailability of water samples DMR has proposed that Bristol agree to a razor clam closure. On a motion made by Lackovic and seconded by Cheney all agreed to a razor clam closure within Bristol.

Green Crabs.

DMR has recently changed green crab trapping requirements. Municipalities with shellfish programs are now exempt from having to file an application with DMR. Marine Patrol should be notified if traps are being set. A requirement of the exemption is that any harvested green crabs may not be sold.

On a motion made by Lackovic and seconded by Cheney, all approved the meeting minutes from January, February, March and April 2018.

Adjournment at 8:00pm. The next meeting will be held on June 4 @ 7pm.

Agenda items to include: pollution abatement closure, Pemaquid watershed plan, survey, conservation