

**NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Thursday, Oct 12, 2023, at 5:00pm

In Attendance: David Reed, Matt Hobart, Noah Mayrand, Michael Baptiste, Roger Moffat, Tom Robinson (via zoom), and Greg Martino (via zoom).
(Alternates John Packer and Lynn Fraker attended).

Also Present: John Crocker, Kim Elias, Danielle Ewart, Morgan Reitzas, Jeffrey Canha (via zoom)

- 1) Call to Order 05:05pm:** Matt Hobart called the meeting to order.
- 2) Public Comment:** Jeffrey Canha congratulated the new and appointed members of the committee. Mr. Canha introduced himself as one of the three licensed aquaculture lease holders in the Town of Tisbury and mentioned the other two lease holders being members of the committee Noah Mayrand and Greg Martino. Mr. Canha stated to the committee that the three of them have been working on amended regulations to the aquaculture regulations. He then said that they would be submitting them as a draft early next week to the town administrator along with the Natural Resources Department as open public record. Mr. Canha said he would be reaching out to each member of the committee individually once the draft regulations have been submitted. He encouraged each member to make site visits to see firsthand what is going on ecologically, environmentally, and economically with the Town of Tisbury's aquaculture. Danielle Ewart asked that the draft regulations be submitted to the Harbor Master and Shellfish department together with the town administrator.
- 3) Elect Chair/Vice Chair:** Matt Hobart stated that the committee rotates the position on an annual basis and that we should continue that practice.

Matt Hobart made a motion to elect Tom Robinson as chair and Michael Baptiste seconded that motion. Tom stated that he would be willing to be chair and organize the agenda. John Packer was concerned about conflict due to Tom sitting on Con Com. After discussion we all agreed it was not and Tom was the best candidate. Tom did state that he would abstain from a vote if there was conflict.

(Voted 7-0)

Roger Moffat made a motion to elect Matt Hobart as Vice Chair and Michael Baptiste seconded that motion.

(Voted 6-1)

- 4) **Meeting Schedule:** Meeting schedule will remain 2nd Thursday of each month and be a combination of in person and hybrid. John Crocker brought up a brief discussion about whether we can have a meeting if the zoom is not working. Kim Elias stated that we were not sure, and we would investigate it with the town. Ms. Fraker mentioned how Oak Bluffs put it as a declaration on their agenda.
- 5) **Scallop Season:** Danielle Ewart opened the discussion saying she had to change the original scallop season dates due to the timing of the select board meeting. Ms. Ewart showed a map of the lagoon area that will be closed for scalloping due to eel grass. The area by Hines Point that is closed will be marked as well as a small area around the head of the Lagoon. Green area on Map is for recreational not commercial. Ms. Fraker asked how long the season will be open and if it will be open longer than the previous year. Ms. Ewart stated it may, be but she won't know until after the first weekend.

Tom Robinson made a motion to recommend to the Select Board to approve the Scallop Opening Dates for Fall/winter 2023/2024. Michael Baptiste seconded the motion as follows:

Saturday October 28th Recreational OUTSIDE the ponds and the harbor.

Monday October 30th Commercial OUTSIDE the ponds and the harbor.

Saturday November 4th Recreational Lagoon Pond

Monday November 6th Commercial Lagoon Pond

NO Scalloping in our experimental eelgrass areas!

Saturday December 2nd Recreational Tashmoo ** No dragging

Monday December 4th Commercial Tashmoo ** No dragging

(Voted 7-0)

- 6) **Harbor Fees:** John Crocker opened the discussion stating that the mooring fees increase 10% every other year. Transient mooring fee does not increase it will stay at \$70. Recommended that we increase the dockage fees by \$5 per hour for each category based on size of vessel. Mr.

Crocker also recommended that we increase the dinghy recovery fee from \$50 to \$250. He suggested the current fee was not much of a deterrent for people to move their own dinghy's. Harbormaster is working with the Police Department to find a way to auction off the dinghies after they have been in what Mr. Crocker calls "Dingy Jail" after 3 years. Mr. Crocker stated that the reason our transient daily fee is higher than Oak Bluffs and Edgartown was to be comparable with Vineyard Haven Marina and Gannon and Benjamin increase from \$50 to \$70. Our mooring fees are based on the length of the vessel not a flat fee like other towns. Matt Hobart asked if you sell your boat and get a smaller boat would the fee be adjusted, and the answer is yes but not mid-season. Ms. Fraker asked how the town can justify the constant raising of mooring fees. Mr. Crocker explained that the private permit mooring fees go to the waterways fund. The funds help pay for dredging, mooring maintenance, and dock repairs. Mooring permit fees are comparable to other towns. Mr. Crocker stated that it's not just maintenance but its billing, chasing mooring inspections and administrative work it takes as well. Noah Mayrand suggested we have a resident and non-resident price for dinghy sticker fees. John Crocker had a concern that people use the dinghy dock to store their boat for \$25 fee which is great deal. Noah Myrand and Roger Moffit suggested we have a non-resident dinghy fee of \$200.

Roger Moffit made a motion that to recommend to the Select Board to approve 2024 Tisbury Harbor fees as presented and in addition to a change in the dinghy sticker fee (if allowed) as follows:

**Dinghy Sticker Fee charged if owner does not have a mooring: Resident \$25
Non Resident \$200 (Voted 7-0)**

- 7) Waterways Regulations:** Chapter 1 has been approved by the Select Board and Chapter 2(mooring regulations) is still a working document with proposed changes. Matt Hobart suggested that all members review the document for the next Waterways Committee Meeting. Kim Elias will post Chapter 1 on the website along with the Chapter 2 proposal for public view.

06:10 pm David Reed made a motion to Adjourn the Meeting and Roger Moffitt seconded.

(Voted 7-0)

Documents:

Letters and emails received regarding recommended changes to Waterways Regulations
Draft recommended changes to waterways regulations