

## **NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 13th, 2023, at 5:00pm

**In Attendance:** Tom Robinson, David Reed(via-zoom), Noah Mayrand, Michael Baptiste, Greg Martino, John Packer (Alternate) & Lynne Fraker (Alternate)

**Also Present:** Kim Elias, Danielle Ewart, Morgan Reitzas, Sarah Coddington, Nevin Sayre & Donovan McElligatt. (Via-Zoom) Jeffrey Canha, Bob Landreth and Christine Petitpas

**1) Call to Order 05:00pm:** Tom Robinson called the meeting to order.

**2) Public Comment:** Nevin Sayre requested an update on Harbor Dredging. Ms. Fraker stated that a public comment is a comment and that the board cannot respond with an answer. She did say that she has asked for this to be on the agenda. She would like to hopefully see regular updates in the future regarding the dredging.

**3) Previous Minutes:**

**Minutes from 11/09/23**

Ms. Fraker made comments regarding the outline and structure of the previous minutes.

**John Packer made a motion and Noah Mayrand 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the minutes with amendments.**

**(Voted 5/1/1)**

**4) Harbor Management Plan:**

Ms. Fraker stated that the Selectboard Voted for \$10,000 from the Embarkation Fund. This Harbor Management Plan is just in the beginning stages. She stated that the Town of Mashpee was in the beginning stages of a plan and suggested the committee go to their website for more information.

**5) Aquaculture Regulations Proposed Amendments:**

Tom Robinson stated that the letter sent to the selectboard from the previous November meeting was about the committees' recommendation to exempt Aquaculture Moorings from fees. The rest of the regulations are still under discussion. Ms. Fraker brought up the public hearing notice for December 20th and stated that it doesn't mention anything about fees. Tom made a statement that the Selectboard are the ones who posted the hearing and maybe they misworded it. All the committee can do is recommend the change. There was further discussion and then Tom Robinson suggested they move on and get through the Aquaculture Regulation changes. Noah Mayrand and Greg Martino, both recused themselves.

Section 2, Eligibility based on past shell fishing experience and being a licensed captain. Ms. Ewart was concerned as to what relevance sea time and being a licensed captain needed to be documented to run

an aquaculture farm. Having a commercial shellfish license for 3 years or providing details of work performed would be sufficient as it currently written. Mr. Mayrand stated that operating a vessel and having sufficient sea time as a licensed captain should take preference over having the experience as a shellfish aqua culturist. Mr. Mayrand referenced the three current license holders as having these proposed requirements and how detrimental it is to safety. Mr. Reed commented that it is not an unreasonable request for the shellfish constable to ask for 3 years' worth of catch reports for a commercial shellfish license holder. Ms. Ewart stated that all this information is gathered and the DMF must approve all applications. This information is used for the shellfish constable and the DMF to keep track of what is happening in the ponds for data.

Section 5E, Mr. Robinson stated there were some wording changes. Mr. Mayrand explained the process of time frames for incomplete applications. Incomplete applications after 30 days may forfeit the application fee. Ms. Fraker questioned whether the wording was correct, and Mr. Mayrand quoted what is written in section 6G which explains this process in detail. It is 30 days for applicant to have all proper paperwork in order. The whole process can take up to 5 months between the selectman, DMF, army corps of engineers, con com, etc. Ms. Fraker brought up the notification of the abutters needs to do be done by the applicant by certified mail. Referenced in section 7C and 14B.

Section 15. Some wording changes in site marking due to grammatical errors. Mr. Reed brought up what is Navigable or not Navigable. Is the license holder responsible for any vessel that would drive over their plot. All subtidal equipment must allow boaters to properly navigate the body of water. This action would leave the town not liable as the licensee would have proper insurance. Must have well marked corners as stated in current regulations. Not requiring a channel in their site but must be navigable to pleasure boaters. These sites are put in areas that are not typically used for heavy navigation. These are areas that are suggested by the Harbormaster, DMF and Coast Guard during the application process.

Section 19. Site Gear. Mr. Robinson suggests removing the word **ALL** from site gear to not limit types of gear used.

**John Packer made a motion and Michael Baptiste 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to recommend to the Select Board to approve the changes to the Town of Tisbury Aquaculture Regulations as presented.**

**(Voted 5-2 abstain)**

**Discussion of changing meetings to Wednesdays that don't coincide with selectmen meetings.**

**John Packer makes a motion and Michael Baptiste 2<sup>nd</sup> a motion to Adjourn.**

Documents:

-Minutes from 11/09/2023

-Aquaculture Proposed Regulations

