

# **A Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes**

**Thursday March 12, 2025, at 5:00 pm**

**In Attendance:** Tom Robinson, Greg Martino, Noah Mayrand, Michael Baptiste, Harbormaster Gary Kovack and Shellfish Constable Dannielle Ewart and Sarah Coddington Administrative Assistant to the Harbor department.

**Also Present:** Lynne Fraker, Beverly Potsaid, John Cahill, Jason Robinson, and John Collette.

**1) Call to Order 5:00 pm:** Tom Robinson called the meeting to order.

## **2) Public Comment:**

Lynne Fraker voiced her complaint about not having an opportunity to present her work regarding the on-going town of Tisbury shellfish regulations review that was requested by the committee. Noah Mayrand spoke to hearing Lynn's work and generating more community and town involvement overall.

## **3) Harbormaster's Report:**

**Gary Kovack introduced Sarah Coding the new Administrative Assistant to the Harbor Department.**

Gary Kovack, Chief of Fire, and Patrick Rolston visited Tisbury K-4<sup>th</sup> grade to discuss water safety.

Pre-season maintenance and getting town moorings ready with fluorescent lettering.

The Town and Harbor Department web pages have been updated to use Dockwa and the site goes live for us on May 25, 2025.

Also, getting a new assistant to help in the harbor/lagoon, Community Preservation Grant for a new boat and fixed the pump out station.

Discussed adding more commercial permits in Tashmoo and investigate Jason Robinson's moorings.

## **4) Shellfish Constable's Report:**

General report of meetings attended, and she will be putting out the quahog spawn as early as next week. Noah Mayrand asked about soft shell clams which have not been brought in since 2019. They have been unsuccessful due to the large number of predators.

## **5) Minutes:**

**February 13, 2025, Minutes were read with no questions or comments. Michael Baptiste moved, Noah Mayrand second. The committee voted to Accept 4-0-0.**

## **6) Continuation of Shellfish Regulations:**

Danielle Ewart presented the changes she recommends to the Town of Tisbury Shellfish Regulations. This is the third meeting of an on-going discussion.

### **Word smithing changes**

**Apprenticeship:** Discussed the desire to provide a way for younger generations to get into the trade and not to run counter to MGL child labor laws. Defer to Selectboard and Town Council.

**Section #8:** General discussion for legally moving conch and fines. The committee agreed with the

**Section #10 and #15** were read and accepted as previously considered.

**Section #16:** General discussion as to marking of open and closed areas for commercial and recreational harvest as to the use of buoys and latitude and longitude coordinates on the Town's website maps. It was agreed that both methods should be used.

**Section #20** The Temperature necessary to start scalloping was established. Also the wet storage of shellfish (quahogs) was discussed and determined to be a bad idea. Greg Martino moved, seconded by Michael Baptiste that **No** wet storage be allowed **Voted 4-0-0.**

### **Section #25 Non-Resident Short-Term Permits:**

Dannielle presented that this would be a species-specific permit for people who visit on the shoulder seasons and want to go clamming. The committee felt this was a good idea and one method currently available would be for them to purchase the existing Non-Resident one-month permit.

**Hardship:** Dannielle Ewart suggested that a commercial shellfish permit may be granted after the deadline provided the applicant can show a hardship, that hardship subsequently being approved at the next selectboard meeting. Noah Mayrand felt this whole process was cumbersome and an obstacle where there shouldn't be one. The committee decided to defer a recommendation and investigate other towns' policies.

### **Presentation of Changes Suggested to the Tisbury Shellfish Regulations by Lynne Fraker:**

Lynne asked the committee if they still wanted to review her work on the shellfish regulations. Both Noah Mayrand and Greg Martino **re-affirmed that they did** want to hear her presentation and that would happen at the beginning of the next meeting.

**Greg Martino made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Noah Mayrand. Voted 4-0-0.**