

A Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

Wednesday May 14, 2025, at 5:00 pm

In Attendance: Tom Robinson, Noah Mayrand, David Reed, Matt Hobart, Roger Moffet, Harbormaster Michael Gatelly and Shellfish Constable Danielle Ewart, Morgan Reitzas assistant Harbormaster, Sarah Coddington Administrative Assistant to the Harbor department.

Also Present: Lynne Fraker, Ben Robinson, Oscar Hanson, Doug Bardwell and Paul Manufo.

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

2) Public Comment: Noah Mayrand noted that the newly adopted Waterways Regulations now call for a fee to be charged for an aquaculture license which was not the intent of the committee or the Selectboard. Lynne Fraker also noted that there were a couple of other minor items that needed to be changed in the final adopted regulations and that these changes should be grouped together and presented to the Selectboard. Tom Robinson asked Noah Mayrand and Lynne Fraker to summarize their changes and put in an email to the committee.

3) Minutes: The minutes from the April 13, 2025 meeting were not voted upon as a quorum from that meeting was not present.

4) Micheal Gatelly the new Harbor master introduced himself.

5) Harbormaster's Report:

Morgan Reitzas spoke and noted that Dockwa is now live and that we have already booked 83 nights for the summer. There was a discussion on how this revenue would appear on future reports, cancellation policy, and would rafting in the main harbor be allowed.

5) Shellfish Constable's Report:

There was a discussion about oysters being placed in the family designated shell fishing area where Noah Mayrand noted that the area should be marked very carefully as buoys move with ice etc., and that there needs to be some sort of signage to inform the public concerning proper care of oysters after harvesting especially in the warm months.

6) Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Tom Robinson opened the conversation saying that articles concerning the waterways should be brought before the committee prior to town meeting so that the committee could have input and be informed. David Reed and Noah Mayrand expressed surprise that they had never heard of any of these financial articles prior to the meeting. David Reed read two policy statements from the selectboard, one dated May 12, 2020, is to advise the finance committee on budget items concerning the waterways when the budget is being prepared, and one dated September 29, 2020 that one of the NRAC duties is to ...Review and recommendation of requests/applications to utilize town resources for marine and commercial purposes.

This clearly is not happening. Tom Robinson concluded that it would be nice if the NRAC could participate in town meetings and record their support or opposition to a warrant article.

We also talked specifically about how much the reconstruction of the town pier at Owen Park is going to cost. So far, the estimates are close to 1.6 million dollars.

7) Article 9:

David Reed started the discussion, raising several questions about where will the moorings be placed, is there a subcommittee, how many are private vs. commercial, etc. Tom Robinson suggested the Harbormaster come up with a plan to review. Danielle Ewart raised concerns about protecting the shellfish, policing the areas and the fact that just the sheer number of moorings could lead to shell fishing closures. Lynne Fraker expressed a strong desire that a committee be formed to help the Harbor dept. with this task. Paul Munafo raised the point that there is no where for the dinghies to go for new moorings at Tashmoo. Michael Gately said their department would create a proposal as a starting point as the where to place the new moorings and then open it up for all to review. Matt Hobart made the point to the harbor Dept. that the new waterways regulations make it much harder for people to hold their moorings and not use them. He suggested that perhaps the waiting list would start to move now that these regulations have been changed.

8) Harbor Dredging Projects:

The new harbormaster will meet this shortly with Woods Hole and be in a position to give the committee a report at the next meeting. There is a lot of re-thinking on how to dredge the Tashmoo opening. Lynne Fraker suggested that there should be a dredging committee. Danielle Ewart suggested extending the jetties.

The Harbor Department left the meeting after this discussion.

9) Ongoing Shellfish Regulations Discussion:

The discussion started with Noah Mayrand stating the regulations should have more community input and not just be written by the Shellfish Constable. Danielle Ewart stated her approach was generic in nature and not meant to be taken that way. Lynne Fraker made comments concerning the violations section and noted they needed a lot of work. She also stated that a committee should be formed. Noah raised the issue of applying for a commercial scalloping license after the Jan-March time period and these licenses should be issued anytime. There was a very long discussion as to reasons and why. A consensus was not reached. Ben Robinson noted that there must have been an initial reason why this requirement exists and that we should try to find that out. David Reed asked if we could have a document on the current wording of shellfish regulations now stand after months of meetings and Tom Robinson volunteered to try and put that document together before our next meeting.

10) Motion to Adjourn: At 6:47 Matt Hobart made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Noah Mayrand. Voted 5-0-0.

