

Minutes Marine Resources Committee minutes Feb. 23, 2016

Members present:

David Wilson
Michael Bernier
Weston Watts
Justin Farmer
John Gormley

Others present

Deputy Sheriff Kyle Neugebauer
Darcie Couture, marine resources coordinator
Roz Knight, Town Clerk
Pete Thayer, DMR area biologist
Teri Dane, DMR shellfish growing area program
Monique Coombs, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association
Mary Ann Nahf, Harpswell Conservation Commission

Harvester present:

Scott Moody Jr
Kevin Griffin
Michael Darling
Jeff Conant
David Hollingshead
Leon Hollingshead
Brandon Brown
David Wilson Jr.
Matthew Winn
Keith Pennell
G Austin
Tim Ward
Roger Fontaine
Clayton Gilliam
Mike Bernier Jr
Jason Field
Robert Bennett

Meeting opened at 7:04 pm

- Approved minutes of Jan. 26 meeting.

- Monique Coombs of the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association described her group's work on a needs assessment for its members and offered to have her group coordinate its work with shellfish harvesters
- Mary Ann Nahf, of the town's Conservation Commission, described the proposed ordinance regarding pesticide use to be considered at the Town Meeting. She noted growing evidence that some pesticides have the potential to harm aquatic invertebrates, which could have implications for shellfish.
- Teri Dane of the Maine Department of Marine Resources reported on recent changes to water quality classifications of clam flats in the town. David Wilson noted that the town hopes to do some shellfish farming in the north end of Ash Cove and expressed concern that water quality issues could impact that initiative. Dane said she would look into the results of water quality testing there to see what could be done to identify what areas of Ash Cove would be suitable for farming clams.
- Darcie Couture discussed efforts to include Harpswell in an initiative by the Manomet Foundation to find ways to improve aquaculture methods for raising clams.
- Discussion by the committee of the use of nets to protect recently seeded clambeds.

Meeting adjourned 7:45.

Submitted by John Gormley

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