

**Board of Selectmen's Special Meeting  
August 16, 2012**

**Selectmen Present:** Elinor Multer, Chair; James S. Henderson and Alison S. Hawks

**Others Present:** Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Don Goulet, Captain, Cumberland County Sheriff's Department; David Wilson, Chair, Harpswell Marine Resources Committee

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. The Board dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Clam Flat Surveys**

The Town Administrator provided background on the language in the contract between the County and the Town that provides for clam flat survey work to be performed by the Marine Patrol Wardens.

The language does not address the numbers of coves or areas that need to be surveyed each year, but in the past it has generally been about a third of the coves each year. However, no clam flats were surveyed in 2011. David Wilson, Chair of the Marine Resources Committee, proposed that the Committee could assist the Marine Patrol Officers with clam flat survey work since the data provides valuable information about the health of the resource. He suggested that, under the supervision of Wardens, the Committee members could conduct surveys as part of their conservation obligation.

Captain Goulet reported that from his brief research he found that 6 coves were done in 2010, none in 2011, and 6 coves in 2012 as of this meeting. There are about 36 coves in total. He noted that the work can be difficult because it is subject to tide, weather, time of year and time of day. Captain Goulet wanted to understand what the Town's expectations were. Selectman Hawkes stated that she expected all areas could be done in one year particularly since the data provides critical information about the overall health of Harpswell's clam flats. Captain Goulet explained that in order to get all coves surveyed the Wardens would not likely be able to cover ten tides per week as at times they would be working together to get the survey work done in the most efficient way—one Warden surveying in the mud and the other recording data.

There was consensus from the Board that the Town found acceptable the proposal that the Wardens would either work together or with Committee members to get all 36 coves surveyed in 2012, and that the Wardens would meet with the Marine Resources Committee to come up with a plan for surveying 36 coves in 2013, such plan to provided to the Selectmen no later than March 2013. In addition, Captain Goulet noted that the County would provide the Town with a monthly Marine Patrol report containing information that included but was not limited to activities of enforcement, water sampling, and surveying.

There was some general discussion with Captain Goulet about the enforcement of Harpswell's consumer fireworks ordinance.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Eiane  
Town Administrator