

Harpswell Fisheries Committee
February 12, 2026, 5:00 pm
Minutes

Link to Legacy Fisheries Map: <https://tinyurl.com/6nt3uemh>

Next Meeting: [March 11, 2026, 5:00pm Town Selectboard Room](#)

Present: George Prince, Seth Walker, Billy Saxton, Alison Hawkes, Jay McCreight, David Wilson, Samantha Bohan

Absent: Jerry Leeman

Staff Representative: Amelia Waszynski, Assessing Assistant/Communications Specialist

Selectboard Representative: Matt Gilley

Call to order: 5:05pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment:

1. Mary Ann Nahf - Discussed a Garrison Cove boat ramp and harbor-related grant application. It will help the proposal to include information about uses of the area by commercial fishermen - how many, what uses. Committee members are asked to get information to Matt or Billy.

2. Laura Campbell, Quohog Bay Conservancy - Invited committee members to visit the new Marine Science Center, end of Peckham Point. The Conservancy is looking for input as they getting started. Visitors will learn about the work done there including oyster aquaculture, microplastics, water quality, and will discuss potential uses, access, partnership opportunities. Quohog bay Conservancy is one tenant among many there. To arrange a visit contact quohogbay.org, or laura@quohogbay.org.

3. Max Burtis - Expressed apologies to the Committee. Paperwork isn't ready for LPA application and asks to push to next meeting.

Committee Announcements: None

Review/Approve January 2026 Minutes: Alison motion to approve, second by David, unanimous approval.

Legacy Fisheries Map Updates:

- Alison explained map is created to help avoid conflict with aquaculture and other fisheries.
- Caleb Hawkes reviewed current map and added information for updating.
- Amelia - She will update. Map is on Town website. **Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/6nt3uemh>.
- Billy - Important is to identify especially high-value spots.
- Matt - Important to spread the word to other fishermen.

- George - The map will be continually updated. Thanks to Caleb for coming in.

Quahog Bay Conservancy Aquaculture Lease Renewal -

Laura Campbell - No changes, no problems. No signature needed.

LPA Application:

Max Burtis - His is an LPA and because LPA's can't be transferred, he needs a new application. No changes though. Will bring full application to next meeting.

Experimental Lease Rule Update:

Jay - Provided background that a rule change was requested by the Aquaculture Working Group (AWG) to add a pre-application process to Experimental Lease applications to give municipalities the added opportunity to weigh in and for applicants to potentially save time and money before applying.

Amanda Ellis, DMR Aquaculture division met with AWG and this gap in municipal input opportunity was recognized by members. Rep. Allison Hepler (Woolwich) came to two AWG meetings and worked closely with DMR and AWG on this idea, resulting in the rulemaking proposal. The Aquaculture Advisory Committee reviewed the concept, some strong support, some opposition.

The public hearing on the rule change took place on 2/9/26. Public Comment can be submitted until 2/23/26 with a decision to follow.

The pre-application process is an "invitation" to municipalities to participate. They don't have to. DMR will still do their review and continue with the decision-making process.

- David - People should weigh in.
- Max Burtis - Also attended the public hearing and added that one person would present the municipality's feedback at the pre-application meeting.
- Jay - Explained that for the comment period, anyone can submit feedback.
- Billy - DMR still makes the decision.
- Jay - Yes. We have had good results working with DMR on this proposal so far and again thanks to Rep. Hepler for her work.
- Matt - It's likely the rule will go through, only aware of two instances where a proposal was scrapped after public input (lobster size and airboats).

New Business:

1. Alison requests focusing on another of the Committee's goal. Discussed idea of working on goal of "Promotion and Outreach."

Discussion of updated Working Waterfront sign idea (continued from last meeting):

- Matt - Selectboard okays Committee raising money and designing new sign. On agenda for next month. Language along the lines of "Harpwell is a Working Waterfront Community"

Alison - Bring ideas and designs to next meeting.

Jay - Will ask a neighbor who does wooden signs if he'd be willing to make them.

2. Jay - Thanks to everyone for donations of seafood for HAH. Other committees and other community programs are being made aware of this work. Lots of excitement.

3. George - Thanks to the Committee. Word is getting out about the work the Fisheries Committee is doing. Legacy Fisheries map is the first of it's kind in the state.

Billy - We're getting the word out, discussed it at Town Resiliency and Sustainability Committee meeting and people were interested and very impressed.

4. Alison - Will be meeting with DMR Commissioner to discuss issues related to lobster licenses, aquaculture - clarity of some definitions. Discussion of whether others could attend. Mary Ann shared that it needs to be less than a quorum. Likely Alison, Matt and George.

Billy - Suggests inviting the DMR Commissioner to a Fisheries Committee meeting.

5. Seth - Concerns with scallop fishery - licenses, limited days and closure of bottom.

Billy - Good topic to discuss with DMR Commissioner at a Fisheries Committee meeting.

6. Jay - Commented that the goal of providing fresh seafood included exploring expanding to children and families. Don't want to lose track of that. An idea was to contact food service person from MSAD for ideas and processes.

- George - Will add to next meeting agenda.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: 5:53 pm

Next Meeting: March 11, 2026, 5:00pm Town Selectboard Room

Respectfully submitted,

Jay McCreight