



Town COMMITTEE of Harpswell, Maine

INCORPORATED 1758

MARINE RESOURCES

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Marine Resources Committee Meeting December 22nd, 2020, 5:00 P.M.

Minutes.1

- The Chair opened the meeting at 5:01 with a quorum present.
- **Attendance:** David Wilson, Scott Moody, jr., David Hunter, Mary Ann Nahf, Assoc., Paul Plummer, MR Administrator; Steven Welch, Shellfish Warden.
- **Minutes:** No November meeting; October minutes held until next meeting,
- **Airboat Legislation:** Representative Jay McCreight, explained new thoughts on pending airboat legislation that included ways to minimize noise such as no wake zones, coast in, reduction of noise with dual muffles, noise reducing blades, an idle zone. Discussed time of day limitation of before 7. D Wilson brought out the more historic pathways get closed off the more need for airboat access; would be good to work on preserving what we have and looking for new. Discussed better education of realtors.
- **Warden Report Steven Welch:** They completed 14 surveys during the month. Because of Covid, not is much conservation time, should be better in 2021; shell stock down in many of the coves, yet up in others; Steven and Paul stressed the need for **Harvesters to be sure to check DMR website before going out to check for new closures. Updates are made during the day so need to check between tides as well.**
- **Closure Maps/Descriptions – Consider Addressing with DMR**
All feel maps are confusing; Steven to meet with B Lewis, to see if DMR can alter water quality maps to be more user friendly, perhaps regarding a water quality interactive map. It is hoped it could highlight individual coves and give all pertinent data about condition on one view.
- **Maine Shellfish Resilience & Restoration Grant**
P. Plummer discussed submitting a grant proposal for recruitment boxes and compensation to harvesters for time lost @ \$20 per hr. The grant request will be for 4K and would be split 2k for construction of boxes and 2k for stipend. Needs to be submitted by 1/19/21. There was a consensus to go ahead. The Committee will review the draft proposal before submission
- **Residential Ramp & Float, Catlin Shore Rd. Proposal:** After reviewing the length of the ramp and its location over prolific shellfish habitat the committee felt it would detrimentally affect the resource and their livelihood.
Motion: It was moved and seconded that the application for a seasonal ramp and float

at 58 Catlin Shore Rd., Harpswell, be denied at the proposed location as it would result in an injury to the resource and cause "injury to the rights of others". It passed unanimously by: David W, Scott M jr, David H, and Mary Ann N

- **New Business** : M.A. Nahf requested a copy of the Town ordinance that prohibits dredging in the intertidal area. Paul will send to the committee. She also gave an overview of the new Climate Resilience Implementation Task Force that is studying town asset vulnerabilities; and how it will consider vulnerabilities to the intertidal zone. Sean Hall will be the Marine Resources representative.

S. Moody jr. requested that the committee consider closing Quahog Bay as recent visits have shown how exhausted the mud is from being turned over too frequently. It needs time to revive and come back. Types of closures were discussed but committee didn't think a 60-90-day period was long enough to fully revive. Request was made to close Quahog Bay from Cundy's Point to Gun Point now for 6 months. Once revived it was suggested going forward that a seasonal closure be in effect Sept.-Dec. to allow the mud time to rebuild.

Motion: Due to exhausted mud in Quahog Bay, the committee moved to close Quahog Bay as soon as possible from Cundy's Point to Gun Point until June 20, 2021. A 60 day review survey of 3-4 coves will be made the beginning of March. Approved unamously by David W, Scott M jr, David H, and Mary Ann N

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm

Submitted by:
Mary Ann Nahf