



Town of Mount Desert

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TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT SHELLFISH CONSERVATION COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes 4:30 p.m., Thursday, February 5, 2015

- I. Call to order 4:30 p.m.
Chairman Victor Doyle called the meeting to order; also present were Committee members Barry Thomas, Earl Moore, Tom Falt, Reid Swanson, and John Stanley; and David Dunton, non-resident commercial clam license holder

- II. Proposed Changes to Shellfish Conservation Ordinance, discussion
Members reviewed Area Biologist Heidi Leighton's response to questions they presented at the October meeting regarding proposed changes to the Ordinance, and Allocation Plan. The following motions were made and voted on:

MOTION: John Stanley moved, seconded by Tom Falt, to amend Section 5.C.3 Licensing of the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance as follows: Those who have held a commercial license uninterrupted from the first year of receipt of said license shall maintain seniority. The vote was unanimous in favor, 6-0.

MOTION: John Stanley moved, seconded by Tom Falt, to amend Section 5.B. Licensing of the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance as follows: add and delete the following at the end of the first paragraph: A license may not be returned to the Town and be re-issued or transferred in the same year it was issued. ~~No Shellfish licenses may be reserved and licenses cannot be transferred.~~ The vote was unanimous in favor, 6-0.

- III. Proposed Changes to Allocation Plan, discussion

MOTION: John Stanley moved, seconded by Barry Thomas, to amend the commercial license allocation to four (4) resident and one (1) non-resident. The vote was unanimous in favor, 6-0.

After a thorough discussion of Conservation time and review of Ms. Leighton's suggestions,

MOTION: Reid Swanson moved, seconded by John Stanley, to change the Allocation Plan Section 7. Conservation Time to read there will be no Conservation Time required; however, commercial license holders are required to attend at least two Shellfish Conservation Committee meetings during the license year. The vote was unanimous in favor, 6-0.

IV. Such Other Business as May be Legally Conducted

A. Discussion of Warden and enforcement

Members agreed there is a serious need for more enforcement and discussed expending funds to pay for a part-time Warden.

B. Chairman Doyle requested the inclusion of additional species allowed for digging, such as littlenecks, razors, and hen clams. Members agreed.

MOTION: John Stanley moved, seconded by Barry Thoms, to amend Section 4.C. Definitions of the Shellfish Conservation Ordinance as follows: hard shell clams (mercenaria mercenaria), razor clams (ensis directus), and hen clams (spisula solidissima). The vote was unanimous in favor, 6-0.

C. Chairman Doyle said he would take care of the annual reports for the town and state.

D. Chairman Doyle brought up the subject of reseedling. Money is available; however, the committee would need Board of Selectmen approval to spend; and as defined in the Ordinance, "Fees received for shellfish licensing shall be used by the town of shellfish management, conservation and enforcement" [currently available: \$12,981.45 Shellfish Account 100-24950].

Members talked of Brian Beal and grants available, along with the new rules for clam flat leasing.

V. Adjourn

MOTION: at 6:03 p.m. Tom Falt moved, seconded by Reid Swanson to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor, 6-0.