

Deer Isle-Stonington Shellfish Committee
December 14, 2022

Attending: George Powell 367-5882, Billy Gove 479-1782, Andrew Wendell 348-6464,
Alvah Wendel 479-7021, Alvin Jones 479-1696

Others attending: Pamela Wendell 322-3590, Bobby Blake 505-9108, George Robbins
348-1040, Mabel Robbins 34801040, Dennis Pomeroy 930-5248, Stephen Ashey 505-2844,
Crystal Gove 479-1782, Ben Hardie, John Robbins

Reading and approval of minutes

- George read the minutes from prior Shellfish Committee meeting
- Reviewed past conservation events
- Minutes approved as read

Chair Report

- Conversation with the area biologist - have hired a new person to run the municipal shellfish program. She has a background in aquaculture.
- Clammers are encouraged to communicate their concerns to the state

Warden Report - Shellfish Warden did not submit a report

Conservation Events

- Re-seeding
 - Billy Gove expressed concerns that after reseeded the clammers aren't able to check on the results.
 - Owners not permitting people to go down their driveways even to check the flats.
 - Suggest making this process more systematic with scheduled visits to see about success of reseeded
 - Access is the problem for a lot of sites. Need to get a canoe or row boat
 - Netting may help. Green crabs penetrate most netting.
 - Concentrating clams in square meters may be more attractive to green crabs
 - The area biologists survey sites afterward to see if the clams have survived.
 - Brian surveys areas
 - Suggest seeding closed areas so that there is a better chance for survival.
 - The committee can close areas.
 - Might practice rotating closures - where reseeded

George Powell
Lucas Oliver
Alvah Wendel

Billy Gove
Alvin Jones

John Robbins (Warden)

- Inner Harbor is closed right now and is split between the two towns
- Webb Cove
- Some locations have been dug very hard this year. The flats may not recover quickly.
- Need to obtain permits to dig, transport and plant seeds.
- Alvah moves to seed inner harbor. Seconded. Approved by the committee.
 - Suggest that a smaller contingent load canoes.
 - Can paddle from Merchant Point
 - Need to have the permits in advance.
 - Recommend waiting until April when the weather has warmed a little.
 - If nets are used, you need to schedule pulling up the nets in the fall.
- Cleanup Days
 - Webb's Cove - landing available to clammers - approved by the committee
 - Spofford's Cove
 - Plumb Point
 - Cat's Cove
- Brushing
- Green crab intervention - picking them up on the shore. Timing is difficult. Volunteers want to earn credits in April and green crab intervention is better in the summer.
- Building relations with property owners
 - Most clammers follow the rules.
 - A few bad clammers irritate the property owners

Other business

- George wants to step down as the chair
 - Town Report needs to indicate work done in Deer Isle and Stonington
- Question: Has there been any change in policy about seaweed harvesting?
 - Property owners have challenged access to the intertidal zone - may be applicable for seaweed harvest.
 - Clams fall under the Fishing, Fouling and Navigation law.
- Move to electronic reporting for clamming

Meeting adjourned 7:02 PM

Next meeting January 11, 2023

- Election for chair, vice chair and secretary