

**Brunswick Marine Resources Committee  
Action Minutes  
Zoom / In-Person Meeting  
March 1, 2023**

**Marine Resources Committee Members Present:** Chair Cody Gillis, Vice Chair Susan Olcott, Marko Melendy, and Camden Rice

**Members Absent:** Peter Milligan, Anthony Yuodsnukis, and Sam Cassidy (Non-voting, Student Representative)

**Staff Present:** Dan Devereaux, Costal Resource Manager; Dan Sylvain, Marine Warden / Harbor Master; Fran Smith, Town Clerk

A meeting of the Brunswick Marine Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at Town Hall, 85 Union Street, Room 204, second floor. Chair Cody Gillis called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Public Comments/Announcements** (for non-agenda items)

- Commercial harvester Max Burtis asked if when they do get the upweller will they be able to fill the upweller or will they be able to purchase more seed. CRM Devereaux replied that they will be able to fill the upweller.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- 2023 Maine Sustainability & Water Conference March 30th at the Augusta Civic Center.
- Maine Fishermen's Forum March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> (Rockland)

**Staff Report**

- Conservation Points & Shellfish Licensing Update Report
  - Letters of Intent are due by Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - \$800.00 worth of Conservation Points were purchased.
  - Staff have noticed a lot of dig marks in the vegetation along the shoreline, please STOP as this vegetation is what keeps the shoreline intact.
  - Plowing at the landings is still an issue and being worked on.
- Administrative Update
  - Working Waterfront Inventory Toolkit (MCFA & Tidal Bay Consulting): This toolkit will assist the Town with coming up with a plan. Susan Olcott provided a brief description regarding the toolkit. Staff to add a link to the BMR website page.
  - LD 581 An Act to Assist Municipal Shellfish Conservation Programs
    - Hearing Date March 9th 1pm State House Station. This bill is to pass the fees along to the LPA applicant and addresses the educational requirement.
  - 2023 Maine Sustainability & Water Conference March 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Maine Fishermen's Forum March 2, 3 and 4 (Rockland). Staff reviewed the agenda and suggested that those who can attend will benefit from the information.
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 5<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Brian Beal from the Downeast Institute will be beginning his project at Barnes Cove. Chris Green and Blain Lund plan on participating.
- Staff is in the process of getting the dilapidated boats in the New Meadows.

1. **Sunday Conservation Closures** (Action Item): Committee members will discuss the possibility of closing Sundays yearlong for shellfish harvesting. This would require an ordinance amendment to Sec. 11-165. - Sunday shellfish harvesting prohibited June 1 to October 1. The Additional Sunday closure would provide an additional 33 days of closures. It would come during times when shellfish are more susceptible to winter mortality and the market prices are lower. The downside is it puts additional day limitations on licensed harvesters. This would not impact recreational harvesting as Section 11-165 is strictly limited to Commercial harvesters.

Chair Cody Gillis opened the item up to Public Comment.

Blaine Lund, commercial harvester, stated that he disagrees with a year-long Sunday closure as they already have a quahog closure. He does not believe the harvesters should be giving up any more than they already have.

George Bernier agreed with Blaine Lund and discussed the impact student licenses have. He would rather see Sunday stay and student licenses decreased.

Members discussed the closure and Camden Reiss stated that he would only agree to closing on Sundays if they could add an extra hour to both ends of allowable digging times. He would like to consider this regardless of the outcome. Marko Melendy replied that he would refer to the harvesters and the survey numbers on this proposed closure. He is not in strong favor of this unless there is really a need. Staff would like to see the survey numbers before making tis decision. Susan Olcott noted that it would be helpful to have some reporting on what is actually being harvested.

**MOTION BY CAMDEN REISS TO TABLE THE ITEM PENDING SURVEY DATA.**  
**MOTION SECONDED BY SUSAN OLCOTT, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CRM Deveraux reminded members that to make any changes to the ordinance it will require an ordinance change and will take more than a vote at the BMR meeting.

2. **Dedicated Revenue Fund:** Committee to discuss suggesting to the Town Council that license fees and any fees associated with the Municipal shellfish program be set into a separate fund dedicated to shellfish sustainability and water quality. These funds could be spent on a variety of projects that positively impact the coastal region, including but not

limited to shellfish propagation, water quality monitoring/ improvements, coastal public access, watershed monitoring, etc....

- License Fees (Commercial and Recreational Licenses Fees)
- Conservation Fees (Fees associated with conservation buyback program)
- Violations (Fees collected from violations of the local shellfish ordinance)
- Shellfish resiliency license surcharge (additional fee added onto license)

Cody Gillis stated that he brought this discussion before staff recently as they are applying for grants for the upweller and would like to see the funds dedicated to that. Camden Reiss agrees with Cody. CRM Deveraux replied that the license fees get pushed into the General Fund along with any other license fees the Town has, but that the conservation fees, violation fees and the additional fee added onto the shellfish resiliency license should be able to go to a dedicated fund. Town Clerk, Fran Smith, explained the reasoning why the license fees are entered into the General Fund. Susan Olcott added that having a dedicated fund may also assist them with grant applications.

MWHW Sylvain asked if it would be possible for the harvesters to give a separate donation that would go into the Resiliency Fund when they obtain their license to show that they in fact do want to make this successful. Fran replied that she does think that would be possible.

George Bernier asked for a breakdown of what they bring in versus what the Town spends on this program. CRM Deveraux and Fran provided a brief overview of how the budget is prepared. Staff to bring a breakdown to the next meeting.

3. **Summer Conservation Projects:** We will be having some upcoming projects where there will be opportunities for harvesters to sign up and help in many ways. Please see MWHW Sylvain.
  - Fecundity Study at Barnes Cove will be deployed on March 4th – 5th
  - Please see staff for survey date sign-ups
4. **Resident License Requirements:** This has come to the committee in the recent past. The committee did not come to a consensus but did request the Town Council establish a direction for the committee to take the conversation and whether or not the Council would consider such a request. It was voted unanimously that the council would not support amending the ordinances to accommodate request. At a recent town council meeting several commercial shellfish harvesters offered public comment on a resident commercial license holder being able to retain his license and move out of town Brunswick. As a result of those harvester's requests, which were presented by newly appointed committee member commercial Harvester Camden Reiss, the council has asked the Marine Resource Committee to take another look at the prospects of the harvester's proposal.

Camden Reiss stated that he would support a Non-Resident License with an increased cost, same conservation credits and requiring a three-year residency before being able to move out of Town. Cody Gills stated that he has tried looking at this from both perspectives and his

biggest concern is with opportunity. CRM replied that they could require a harvest report; Susan Olcott added that having more data improves trust and may open more doors.

Chair Cody Gillis opened the meeting to Public Comment.

George Bernier and members discussed what reporting would entail and how it would help as well as the pros and cons of a Non-Resident License.

Decision among members to set up a task force to work on potential language.

**Adjourn:**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonya Jenusaitis  
Recording Secretary

**PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE ACTION MINUTES. THE ENTIRE MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AT <http://tv3hd.brunswickme.org>.**