

**Brunswick Marine Resources Committee
Action Minutes
Zoom and In Person Meeting
April 7, 2021**

Marine Resources Committee Members Present: Chair Cody Gillis, Vice Chair Susan Olcott Anthony Yuodsnukis, Blain Lund, Marko Melendy, and Sam Cassidy (Non-voting, Student Representative)

Members Absent: Derek Devereaux

Staff Present: Dan Devereaux, Costal Resource Officer; Dan Sylvain, Marine Warden / Harbormaster

A meeting of the Brunswick Marine Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at Town Hall, 85 Union Street, Meeting Room. Chair Cody Gillis called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes: February 2, 2021 and March 3, 2021

MOTION BY ANTHONY YUODSNUKIS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021 AND MARCH 3, 2021. MOTION SECONDED BY CODY GILLIS, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY AMONG THOSE PRESENT.

Warden's Report

- As of April 1st, quahog harvesting is open.
- State license expire on May 1st.
- Sign design for Thomas Point Beach and other locations has been created.
- New spill kits have been built and put up at Mere Point Boat Launch and Sawyer Park.
- Thomas Point Beach closure has been marked. The closure for everything is still in effect until July 1st.

1) **Suspension Hearing:** The Committee will hear evidence and discuss the suspending Derek Graves licenses based on previous consecutive violations of the town laws. MRO Sylvain provide an overview of the ordinance violation of the Town laws and offenses committed by Derek Graves. The two violations he was found guilty of would suspend his Town license for the rest of 2021-2022. He would not be eligible to reapply for a license until May of 2022.

Derek Graves stated that he is a beginner digger and learned on his own the hard way. This is his livelihood.

CRO Devereaux pointed out that due to the fact that MRO Sylvain was able to bring this issue to the attention of the Committee so quickly, Derek has already been given some leeway and will not be missing out on an entire digging season.

MOTION BY CODY GILLIS TO SUSPEND DEREK GRAVES HARVESTING LICENSE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2021 HARVESTING SEASON AND

**THE BEGINNING OF THE 2022 LICENSING SEASON. BLAIN LUND
SECONDED; MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 2) **Air boat Legislative Update (Public Hearing April 12th 10am):** CRO Deveraux stated that the Maine Legislature will hold a public hearing on April 12th to consider enacting a noise decibel level on all air boat operating in Maine waters. He provided a brief overview and reviewed the language for L.D. 89) Bill "An Act to Regulate Airboats" (HP0055) (Presented by Representative SACHS, M. of Freeport) (L.D. 114) Bill "An Act to Address Airboat Operation in the State" (HP0080) (Presented by Representative MCCREIGHT, J. of Harpswell). CRO Deveraux stated that this hearings outcome will depend largely on attendance and asked all Committee members to submit arguments individually in addition to the Town Council's arguments being submitted.

MRO Sylvain stated that this is definitely going to be a stiffer battle then they had anticipated and emphasized that they really need a Sound Engineer to conduct a year-round noise survey before making any decisions.

CRO Deveraux explained that the consensus among the Town Council was that they did not favor the proposed bills. Councilor Walker explained that part of this was due to fiscal responsibilities and man power to chase down for a few complaints. Councilor Wilson added that this is a working water front and priorities should go towards that and not the few who complain.

Anthony Yuodsnukis is in support of the Town Council's decision not to support the proposed bill.

CRO Devereaux clarified that the bill would sunset in a year if passed.

Members discussed their concerns regarding this proposal.

**MOTION BY CODY GILLIS TO DRAFT A LETTER THAT THE BRUNSWICK
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE IS AGAISNST L.D. 89 BILL, "AN ACT TO
REGULATE AIRBOATS" AND OUGHT NOT TO PASS AS WRITTEN. MOTION
SECONDED BY MARKO MELENDY, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CRO Devereaux to draft a letter for the harvesters / citizens that are not in support of the proposed bill to sign.

CRO Deveraux stated that he has been told that oral arguments are most powerful because they show that you value your time.

IFW/MAR LD 89, LD114 AIRBOAT PUBLIC HEAIRNG INFO: April 12th at 10:15. CRO Deveraux to forward instructions for the webinar link.

- 3) **Twilight & Harvesting Restrictions:** The committee is to discuss the concept of further twilight and Sunday restrictions.

Cody Gillis stated that he has been asked to propose that restrictions be lifted to a half hour before sunrise and a half hour after sunset while closing Sundays year-round.

Cody Gillis reviewed the current restrictions per Marko Melendy's request. Marko asked if they should wait until after a decision has been made regarding air boat noise before they propose further restrictions. MRO Sylvain agreed that they should wait before making any decision. Marko suggested that they also consider trying a one-year trial.

Ray Trombley, Brunswick Harvester, stated that they are already losing daylight with mother nature, red tide, and mud closures. Why take more away? Sundays should be open year-round; they already have conservation with all the rules. Ray suggested that they keep Sunday's as they are.

Marko Melendy would like more information from the harvesters as to what works best for the group overall.

Susan Olcott asked if this is something that they want to put into their letter to the legislature; CRO Devereaux agrees.

Chris Green would like more flexibility and is worried about predation.

Item to be added to the May agenda.

4) 2021 Shellfish and Other Projects:

- They have been given an intern from University of Maine. She will start in May. They hope to have her work on green crab monitoring and a different reseeded project.
 - Recruitment project.
 - Quahog reseeded project.
 - Upweller work.
 - There will be two Park Rangers this summer.
 - CRO Devereaux to check-in with the High School regarding potential summer work for the students.
 - Widening the road at Simpsons Point.
 - Work on Satellite parking at Mere Point.
 - This year is a survey year. DMR will be assisting and CRO Devereaux will inform everyone of the dates and times when he has them.
- Members discussed harvester participation.
Jessica Joyce noted that MANOMET is working on developing new survey methods.

5) New Business:

- Community Intertidal Data Portal: Jessica Joyce of Tidal A, provided an overview of her Community Intertidal Data Portal that she has been working on. She is hoping to get a letter of support from the Committee.
CRO Devereaux pointed out that the data that Jessica is collecting will be helpful when they are developing coastal plans and the comprehensive plan.
MOTION BY CODY GILLIS TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE GRANT PROJECT PROPOSED BY JESSICA JOYCE. MOTION SECONDED BY SUSAN OLCOTT, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
- April 14th at 2:00 P.M. there will be a Fisherman's Forum to discuss Shellfish Markets and the Seafood Supply Chain.
- April 21st at 5:00 P.M. will be the last Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Working Group meeting for this season until the fall.

- CRO Deveraux reviewed the Maine DMR Landing historical data survey results for 2020 that can be found by going on the Department of Marine Resources web page [Department of Marine Resources \(maine.gov\)](http://www.maine.gov/dmr) .
- CRO Deveraux reviewed the data from the continuous monitoring stations conducted by the Friends of Casco Bay [Continuous Monitoring Stations • Friends of Casco Bay](http://www.friendsofcasco.org) . Susan Olcott noted that Friends of Casco Bay are adding more monitoring sites. Chris Green thinks that this is a great tool.
- Chris Green, Brunswick Harvester, asked the Committee if there is any way that they can assist in issuing a license to a Brunswick harvester who did not file his Letter of Intent by the due date. Chris stated that this harvester, Joe Haven, has been working in Brunswick for a very long time, this is his livelihood and he has given many hours to conservation. MRO Sylvain stated that this is a procedural question and he would have to look into this further.
Fran Smith, Town Clerk, stated that the Committee does not have the authority to overturn the decision not to issue Joe his license. The only way this could be done would be through the Town Council via an ordinance change.
Chris Green asked about camera surveillance. Fran Smith stated that she does not know how long the town keeps their surveillance. She can look into this, but she would need to know the time frame.
- CRO Deveraux stated that he has been getting several complaints regarding derelict boats on the New Meadows. MRO Sylvain is in the process of contacting the owners to get them cleaned up.

6) Old Business

- Susan Olcott provided an update on the video that they use to provide harvesting background to students that Sarah Johnson has been working on.
- MRO Sylvain provided an update on the Miller Point Project; the applicant has submitted their application to the State and to DMR and will then go to the Planning Department. MRO Sylvain added that there is also another application for Barnes Landing and Maquoit Bay, but they are more seasonal.

Adjourn

This meeting was adjourned at 8:37 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>.