

**Brunswick Marine Resources Committee
Action Minutes
Zoom / In-Person Meeting
May 3, 2023**

Marine Resources Committee Members Present: Chair Cody Gillis, Max Burtis, Marko Melendy, Camden Reiss, Anthony Yuodsnukis, Peter Milligan

Members Absent: Susan Olcott, Sam Cassidy (Non-voting, Student Representative)

Staff Present: Dan Devereaux, Costal Resource Manager; Dan Sylvain, Marine Warden / Harbor Master; Steve Walker, Town Councilor

A meeting of the Brunswick Marine Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at Town Hall, 85 Union Street, Council Chambers. Chair Cody Gillis called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Members shall declare potential conflicts at the start of the meeting or prior to any item.

Roll Call of Members/Acknowledgement Notice of Meeting

Adjustments to the Agenda

Public Comments/Announcements (for non-agenda items) three minutes for each speaker.

- Scott Bodwell, resident of 55 Ocean Dr., Brunswick stated that he would like to be involved on the upper Middle Bay, Johnson Sea Farm aquaculture lease application and approval.

Chair Cody Gillis closed the Public Comment period.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- May 15th 6:30 pm Brunswick Town Council Meeting: The Friends of Casco Bay will be providing a state of Casco Bay report.
- June 11th 11-2pm Shoreside Clean Up (Wharton Point): This is the first scheduled harvester conservation date of the season.
- June 23rd 1:30 pm [DMR Shellfish Advisory Meeting](#): Held in Elsworth from 1:30-4:00 also a zoom in option. Visit DMR Link for more information.

Staff Report

- License Lottery Update (Town Clerk) A report on licenses obtained in the lottery. Warden Sylvain stated that as of Monday, May 1st, all four lottery licenses have been picked up. Student License lottery will be pulled on Friday, May 5th.

- Pier, Ramp & Float Review Attached is a resource review of a recent recreational pier application on the New Meadows River. MRO Deveraux briefly reviewed the application at 33 Sea Smoke Lane included in the packet material. Max Burtis added that the micro-plastics used on a majority of these types of flotation devices does eventually end up in the water and we should start to consider the long term and cumulative effects of this. MRO Deveraux to follow-up with the Town Manager regarding the review criteria work that was done a few years ago on the ordinance language for piers, boat and float per Marko Melendy's suggestion.
Councilor Walker asked if this application meets the frontage requirement and setbacks. MRO Deveraux stated that it is tight, but it does meet the requirements and referenced the report included in the meeting materials.
Committee to generate a memo to the State and DMR regarding a study on the cumulative effects of micro-plastics from floating devices.
- Maine Natural Areas Program Grant (Mooring Replacement/Eelgrass Mitigation): MRO Deveraux provided an update on the progress of this grant. The eelgrass has resuscitated this significantly this year and it will be difficult to meet the marked mitigation.
- [Casco Bay Regional Shellfish Working Group](#) update. Regional shellfish group provided an update at their social hour. Blue Crab Surveys once again underway. They are going to engage in a Residency Requirements Study, an Access Study, and landowner appreciation activities. They have also managed to get a float in the parade and are looking for help with that.
- Legislative Update. LD 581 was amended to include educational and helper exemptions. Passed unanimously.
 - [LD 581 An Act to Assist Municipal Shellfish Conservation Programs](#)

New Business

1. Maine Sea Grant Clam Pipe Experiment (Dana Morse): MRO Deveraux provided a brief overview of the Morse Sea Grant extension and referenced the Clam Tube summary included in the packet materials. Ray Trombley, harvester,
2. Summer Water Quality Monitoring & Recent Emergency Flood Closure (Warden Sylvain) Report out on scheduled water quality monitoring dates and the most recent flood closure updates. Warden Sylvain stated that they will begin water quality testing on May 22nd due to the recent flood closures.
3. Manomet Hardshell Clam intertidal growth rate study. (Rocky Point) Manomet has partnered with the Coastal Resource Office to investigate the growth rate of seed quahogs protected in bags and under nets over the summer. The idea being that quahogs growing in the mudflats have a better planting survival rate. MRO Deveraux provided an overview of the study.
4. Landowner Appreciation Letter (Chair Gillis) Cody will discuss the idea behind sending a landowner appreciation letter to all the coastal landowners in Brunswick. This letter could lead to a landowner appreciation date either later this year. Cody stated that this letter could inform people about the program, culture history of the industry, public access and etc. MRO Deveraux added that he was just speaking with Maine Coast Fisherman's Association

who would be willing to work on a pamphlet similar to what they did in Harpswell for the Scuttlebutt; this will be a great guide.

Marko Melendy stated that the Committee may want to discuss this with the Rivers and Coastal Waters Commission so that they do not repeat the same information.

Wardens Report

- Conservation Points for this harvesting season began on May 1st.
- Please be mindful of headway speed especially around Pauls Marina.
- The Student Licenses for 2022-2023 will end on May 19th. The 2023-2024 year will begin on June 15th.
- The northern side of the Mere Point Boat Launch landing will continue to say closed. IF&W is looking into getting the work done and it should be open by June 15.

Old Business

1. Sunday Closures (postponed until after inventory surveys) This is old business that will stay on the agenda until it is decided on once information has been gleaned from Inventory Surveys.

Member Comment:

- Camden Reiss stated that he would like the Committee to ban the plucking of soft shells. Chair Gillis stated that he would rather see a study conducted first and stated that they can discuss this at the June meeting. MRO Devereaux stated that the municipality cannot make harvesting more restrictive than the State and suggested Camden reach out to other Towns that have currently restricted it, to see how they did it.

Chair Cody Gillis reminded everyone how the Public Comment period works and re-opened the Public Comment.

- Blaine Lund asked what the reasoning was behind the Town Council's decision not to change the residency requirements for harvesters. MRO Devereaux stated that Blaine can bring this up at his meeting with the Town Manager and that this item is no longer open for discussion.

June Agenda Items

- Ask Manomet to discuss Blue Crabs
- Plucking of soft shell

Adjourn:

This meeting was adjourned at 7:51 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>.