

**Brunswick Marine Resources Committee
Action Minutes
Zoom and In Person Meeting
May 5, 2021**

Marine Resources Committee Members Present: Chair Cody Gillis, Vice Chair Susan Olcott Anthony Yuodsnukis, Tim Johnson, and Marko Melendy

Members Absent: Derek Devereaux and Sam Cassidy (Non-voting, Student Representative)

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

A meeting of the Brunswick Marine Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at Town Hall, 85 Union Street, Meeting Room. Chair Cody Gillis called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes: April minutes postponed.

Warden's Report

- Reminder that Sundays are closed to harvesting June 1 to October 1.
- Congratulations to Tucker Tardiff and Troy Trombley who won the license lottery.
- Student License: They have had 22 resident student applications and 1 non-resident apply for licenses. 5 came out to watch the how-to video.
- State Commercial licenses expired on May 1. If yours has expired, please renew.
- Reminder that you have 10 days to notify the Town Clerk of Change of Residency even if you remain in Brunswick.
- Brian Beal helped MRO Sylvain put out the recruitment boxes in Harpswell Cove and in outer Thomas point beach.
- Student License holders have 143 days that they can harvest.
- Conservation points are needed this year for license issuance next year. If you attend a MR meeting virtually, please reach out to MRO Sylvain so that they can keep track of attendance.
- The NO HARVESTING signs have been ordered (24). They are metal signs and will be at each landing and throughout Thomas Point Beach.

1) **Conservation Activities:** Schedule a spring and fall conservation activities (Shore Clean Ups & Quahog Reseeding): Please refer to Agenda Item #1, Conservation Opportunities list included in the meeting materials. This list will also be posted in Town Hall or you can reach out to CRO Devereaux.

CRO Devereaux reviewed the proposed language and location for the proposed shellfish conservation closure closed for ALL shellfish harvesting inside and southerly of a red painted post station off the end of Osprey Lane (Tax Map 34 Lot 17E) running southeasterly

to a red painted post station on West side of Princess Point (Tax Map 35 Lot 12). Please refer to meeting materials for the map.

Chair Cody Gillis opened the meeting to public comment.

Tim Johnson asked what the goal of the closure is. CRO Devereaux stated that the goal is to protect and not dislodge the seed from last years project and reviewed the proposed area map. CRO Devereaux noted that there are no clams in this area.

Chair Cody Gillis closed the public comment period.

MOTION BY CODY GILLIS TO CLOSE HARPSWELL COVE IN THE PROPOSED AREAS DOWN FOR QUAHOGS , SOFTSHELL CLAMS, RAZOR CLAMS, AND AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN CLAMS BEGINNING JUNE 4, 2021 WITH AN END DATE TO BE DETERMINED.

Susan Olcott stated that she is uncomfortable with an undetermined end date. Cody Gillis pointed out that they will have an intern who will be monitoring the area and the Committee can be updated frequently. CRO Devereaux noted that they have done open-ended closures frequently at Thomas Point Beach in the past. Tim Johnson stated that he just doesn't want to see the area closed if there is reasonable product. Cody Gillis reiterated that the area will be frequently reassessed.

MOTION SECONDED BY ANTHONY YUODSNUKIS, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 2) **Air Boat Legislative Update** - Update on MAR committee outcome. Proposed Laws LD114 and LD89: CRO Devereaux provided a brief overview for L.D. 89, Bill "An Act to Regulate Airboats" and L.D. 114 Bill "An Act to Address Airboat Operation in the State". He stated that the LD114 will not be enacted on an emergency basis; the earliest it can go into effect is November. CRO Devereaux stated that you may see more wardens on the shore collecting data and asked all air boat operators to be mindful of the noise they are making and the time of day.

Marko Melendy clarified that if a noise decibel level is established, enforcement will be through IF&W or DMR. Marko also added that municipal boats are exempt.

- 3) **Ordinance Amendments** - Section 11-164 Night Harvesting & Section 11-165 Sunday Harvesting Prohibited. Cody Gillis stated that he has spoken to some harvesters who would like to see the current conditions changed especially since there is a decline in product. Cody would like to propose some conservation method such as noted in the packet materials. MRO Sylvain pointed out that harvesters would be giving up an additional 35 Sundays a year if they prohibited Sunday harvesting.

Cody Gillis, Marko Melendy and Tim Johnson discussed the impact to the resources and the current air boat noise issues. Tim does not agree with further morning (day) restriction and reviewed big drain tides. He believes there should be more restrictions to preserve the resource. MRO Sylvain disagrees with Tim regarding drain tides.

Harvester Ray Trombley believes that Sundays should not be taken away and is not in agreement in further restricting the day.

Members discussed the number of diggers and the amount of digging going on.

CRO Devereaux reviewed the ordinance amendment process per Susan Olcott's request.

Members discussed winter closures. CRO Deveraux suggested that they add winter closures to the June agenda so that he can include mortality rates.

- 4) **Shellfish Analysis** (Spring Seed Surveys & Growing Area Assessments) -Comprehensive look at existing shellfish growing areas, managed species, and areas of low medium and high productivity: CRO Deveraux presented the work that he and MRO Sylvain have been collecting since April via mapping.

Councilor Walker and CRO Deveraux discussed the effects of sea level rise and resources. CRO Deveraux noted that where they see the most impact are areas where there is not re-sedimentation.

CRO Deveraux pointed out that they are seeing more green crabs then last year but not as much as in 2011 or 2012. In addition, they are still having issues with worm harvesters, but this is not as bad as in 2014-2016.

Tim Johnson noted that he thinks that milky ribbon worms are the reason the steamers are hanging on the shore. CRO Deveraux agrees.

- 5) **Maine Shellfish Advisory Council Update** (Work Session):

Ari Leach from DMR updated the committee on the Municipal Shellfish Management Program. Some concerns / issues to be discussed are:

- Management when DMR is involved; can be cookie cutter which restricts individual movement / enforcement within those towns.
- Co-management program between town and state.
- The need to remind towns that the towns can make their own landing data.

Ari reminded everyone that this list is a living document and can be changed or added to at any time.

- 6) **Meeting with Running Tide Hatchery in Harpswell** - Grant opportunities for shellfish restoration - Reseeding Partnership with the Town of Brunswick: CRO Deveraux provided an overview of Running Tide Hatchery in Harpswell and stated that they are highly focused on seaweed aquaculture. CRO Deveraux and MRO Sylvain were able to view and discuss with Running Tide how a local hatchery and running tide could benefit the community. One valuable lesson they were able to take away from this visit was that they do not have the time on a municipal level to run a program like this. Staff has looked at a few grant opportunities; more information forthcoming.

- 7) Student License Video Update: More information forthcoming.

- 8) New Business:

- Miller Point Pier project will be heading to the Brunswick Planning Board on May 25th. All comments have been forwarded to the Planning Board.

Adjourn

This meeting was adjourned at 9:11 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>.