

Shellfish Advisory Board Meeting
January 26th, 2024 11AM
Town Hall Basement Conference Room

Board Members in attendance: Rebecca Taylor (Chair), Brad Morse (Vice Chair), Nick Sirucek (secretary), Adrien Kmiec, Stephen Pickard, Ethan Estey, John Duane (via Zoom), Chris Merl

Regrets: Damien Parkington

Announcements & Public Comment

- R. Taylor commented about meeting procedure and adherence to the SAB's charge
- N. Sirucek commented about board adherence to Open Meeting Law and Town Code of Conduct, raised concerns about violations
- A. Kmiec commented about the Wellfleet Oyster Alliance meeting he attended
- H. Wilson made comments about Town Counsel opinion, materials, and minutes
- D. Brunt commented on overwintering agreements, revolving fund
- N. Civetta commented on overwintering agreements, revolving fund
- S. Pickard commented on overwintering agreement needing review, materials being posted to website
- N. Sirucek commented about issues with posting TC opinion publicly, noted that it was provided to all board members

Approve Meeting Minutes

- Amendments were made to previous meeting minutes, motion to approve by S. Pickard, 2nd'd by B. Morse, revised minutes approved 7-0

(N. Sirucek made motion to suspend the rules and take up the Ice Machine agenda item first, motion approved)

Town Ice Machine

- N. Sirucek suggested writing a letter to Select Board and Town Administration encouraging action on moving forward with the Ice Machine proposal
- J. Duane commented on the time sensitive nature of the proposal, concerns about the Town having a purchasing agent
- S. Pickard spoke of state funding and the availability of outside funding (WOA) for the project
- B. Morse informed the board that he talked to the current TA and spoke with Alfred Pickard from WOA, was waiting to get more information
- H. Wilson commented on the availability of a procurement officer, suggested that if SAB appoints a subcommittee on this item that they take notes to provide to SAB
- N. Civetta spoke to possible locations for the machine, infrastructure issues (water, power, traffic, staffing/maintenance)
- N. Sirucek read the text of a letter to send to the BOS and Town Administration and made a motion to send it. Motion 2nd'd by J. Duane, motion passed 7-0
- R. Taylor spoke of designating a SAB subcommittee to get more information on the Ice Machine project

- N. Sirucek made motion “to designate Stephen Pickard and Brad Morse as a subcommittee to gather and document more information regarding the Town Ice Machine, and report back to the board.”, motion 2nd'd by E. Estey, motion passed 7-0
- Further discussion of Ice Machine, continued to next meeting

Review/discuss Town Counsel's legal determination regarding Shellfish Department reorganization process

- Board discussion re: how the legal opinion was obtained and given to the board
- Board members spoke of how/why it was obtained, the Select Board not yet voting to release it, it's status as a public document, legal issues
- Public comments: D. Brunt commented on approval of ¾ position, K. Bacon commented that TC opinion wasn't public information, H. Wilson commented that it shouldn't have been released, J. Ahern commented on the budget and position
- N. Sirucek made motion to end debate on this agenda item, motion passed 7-0
- S. Pickard made motion “to have Town Counsel opinion on next meeting agenda once released by the Select Board”, motion passed 7-0

Shellfish Department FY2025 Budget

- H. Wilson suggested the board draft a letter to the Town Administration that we get copied on everything shellfish related
- N. Civetta commented that she can have the Capital Improvement Plan and Revolving Fund information for the next SAB meeting
- A. Kmiec noted that last year SAB received the budget late
- N. Civetta spoke about the budget and the process of hiring a new deputy shellfish constable, noted that the position didn't need a 2 ½ override, spoke about the Shellfish Revolving Fund and how that money is used and the spending limits set
- B. Morse asked about money in the SRF and how it's used
- N. Civetta commented that SRF funds are only used for propagation-related expenses, and that the funds do not go back to the town if unused
- H. Wilson spoke to why the SRF was established and it's purpose
- N. Civetta commented that she will bring more information about SRF to a future SAB meeting
- S. Pickard made motion “to table the budget discussion until the next meeting when we expect to have the Capital Improvement plan and Shellfish Revolving Fund”, 2nd'd J. Duane, approved 7-0

Future Topics

- Board discussed possible future topics including continued Shellfish Budget/Capital Improvement/Revolving Fund, Conservation Commission review re: Chipman's Access, Town Counsel Opinion, Ice Machine updates, Horseshoe crabs, Letter to Select Board and TA, overwintering form, Power's Landing erosion and parking lot upgrade
- Next meeting date set for February 15th 6pm

Materials at this meeting: Jan 18th minutes, Shellfish department budget, Town Counsel opinion