



TOWN OF BREMEN
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**BREMEN SHELLFISH CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 08, 2017, 11:00 a.m. – Bremen Town Center**

Members in attendance: Wendy Pieh, Rand Maker, Boe Marsh.

Dept. of Marine Resources: Hannah Annis, Area Biologist and Clam Mgmt.

Resident License Holders:

Nonresident License Holders: Roman Mank

Community Attendance: John T. Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. Chairman Pieh explained the focus of discussion would be to address amendments to the current Shellfish Conservation Ordinance, provide an update on the Pollution Abatement Extension and Broad Cove and Greenland Cove closures.

Wendy Pieh opened the meeting with discussion about the proposed amendments to the Bremen Shellfish Ordinance.

Item 1. Sec.5 sub-sec. c, par (4) adding that the shellfish license can be purchased by someone other than the license holder but "An application and the license must be signed in person by the license holder before it is valid". The reason for this requirement is that the license is signed by the license holder then stamped with the town seal and laminated.

Item 2. Sec. 7 sub-sec. f adding that "If licenses remain unpurchased the Town Clerk shall issue those remaining licenses by lottery after a 30-day waiting period. Applications for the lottery shall be accepted up to the last business day before the lottery."

Item 3. Sec 7, sub-sec. g adding that "Applications for the lottery shall be accepted up to the last business day before the lottery."

Hannah Annis stated that 90 days after initial issuance any remaining license must be sold to residents and nonresidents alike at the original fee i.e. resident licenses must be sold to nonresidents at the resident fee. The sale can be on a first come first serve bases or lottery. A nonresident who wins a resident lottery license does not qualify for a resident license automatically the following year. They must apply annually for the lottery if there is a lottery.

Wendy Pieh announced that the Pollution Abatement Extension has been granted.

Boe offered an update on the testing of the Broad Cove and Greenland Cove to identify the source of contamination. Steve Young of the University of New Hampshire testing facility confirmed that the cost for testing is \$150 per test. It was decided that delivery of samples to UNH facility would qualify for Conservation credit. The town will honor 6 hours of conservation work for \$60 credit towards license fee, as well as reimburse for gasoline to and from New Hampshire.

Motion: To allow the BSCC to expend the funds for sample testing, reimbursement of gas for travel to and from UNH for harvester as well as 6 hours of conservation work credit. Vote: 3-0

Further discussion continued on the topic of conservation work and how it will be handled. Hannah Annis stated that all credit given for conservation work rolls forward to the next year when it will be applied to the license fees.

Hannah Annis suggested having a meeting with the harvesters and having maps and asking them to assist with an inventory of valuable shellfish resource areas. This could be instrumental in helping with plan for water quality, resource management and conservation. Something similar was done years ago and it was beneficial for all parties to get together and share what trends they are seeing and planning for future development. This would also be good for identifying areas that may be best for winter harvest only to give the areas better sustainability. The BSCC will schedule a meeting for this purpose in the late fall. Due to the nature of this meeting and time anticipated attendees will be given 2 hours of conservation credit.

Boe Marsh stated that the purpose of the conservation work credits was to have harvesters doing some of the work of keeping the harvest areas in good condition. Discussed was the lack of conservation applications being submitted. The necessary work will need to be funded by license fees going forward so that needs to be taken into consideration when offering conservation credit. Also suggested by Boe was to have an informational session which would include a visit to one of the local harvest areas and observe the various stages of shellfish growth.

Resident Tom Wilson geologist by training offered his knowledge and services to help to identify the contamination issue in the Broad Cove area.

Further discussed regarding the location of the closure of Broad Cove being near the new park location. Possible causes for the elevated levels of contaminants included increase number of humans and animals in the park area, change to run off from the new road leading to the park and local farms in the area. Having the testing completed is essential to identify the type of contaminate in order to create a plan of action necessary to remedy the situation. Rand Maker suggested the areas for sampling be the areas with the highest contamination levels according to the Department of Marine Resources testing. Hannah Annis will confirm where the highest leveled samples were taken from and report back to the BSCC so that samples can be taken from those areas and identification testing can be as accurate as possible. Boe will contact Steve Young to confirm sampling procedures and handling for testing.

Rand Maker reminded the Board that resolving this situation can be a very lengthy process and if the flat is left unmanaged/unharvested it could be detrimental to the permanent condition of the flat. Boe inquired as to if at any point during the cleanup process would depuration diggers be allowed to harvest to maintain the health of the area. Hannah stated that yes that would be allowed. But that decision would be made by the town while the area is closed.

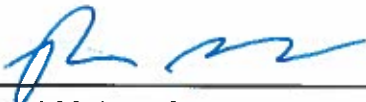
Chairman Pieh inquired about the use of drones in protecting the harvest areas. Rand Maker indicated that there is talk about enforcement agencies using drones in the future but there is no definitive timeline for such a practice at this point.

Hannah Annis was thanked for her information and input. Her attendance at these meetings is always extremely helpful and appreciated.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.



Wendy Pieh, Chair



Rand Maker, Committee Member


Boe Marsh, Member Pro Tem

Recording secretary,

Cynthia Hasty
Bremen Clerk