

City of Biddeford
Shellfish Conservation Committee
November 15, 2023 6:30 PM Biddeford Pool Fire Department
2nd Floor Conference Room

Status:

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Adjustments to Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - 3.1. Approval of Minutes 10-18-2023
[Joint Harbor Shellfish Meeting Minutes 10-18-2023](#)
- 4. Presentation**
 - 4.1. Harbor Master Summary
- 5. Old Business**
 - 5.1. Marshall Alexander Recognition Plaque
 - 5.2. Emergency Response Points
 - 5.3. Mooring Applications and Records
 - 5.4. Shellfish Management Plan
- 6. New Business**
- 7. Adjourn**

Joint Harbor and Shellfish Meeting – Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Location: Biddeford Pool Firehouse

Time: 6:30 PM

Attendees: Peter Bouthillier, Andy Brady, Randy Desmarais, Bill Emhiser, John Hennedy, Paul Lariviere, Sean Murphy, John Schafer, Rob Simmons

Minutes: The minutes of the previous Commission meeting, September 20, 2023, were unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION:

1. **Ari Leach, Maine Department of Marine Resources**

We were very pleased to have Ari Leach join our meeting for the purpose of discussing Biddeford's responsibility for shellfish management and explain how the DMR can assist our efforts.

- **Shellfish Management Plan** – Biddeford is required to submit a formal Shellfish Management Plan to the DMR by December 31, 2023. The plan has to outline our Goals for 2024 and the DMR has the responsibility/authority to approve the Plan and monitor our progress against our Goals. The Goals can include such things as:
 - (a) **Shellfish Ordinances.** Conduct a formal review of the existing Ordinances, rewrite them as needed and submit them to the DMR for approval. The DMR has responsibility to review and approve our Ordinances for compliance. After DMR approval, these Ordinances can be submitted to Policy Committee and Counsel.
 - (b) **Water Quality Testing Plan for Biddeford Pool.** There have already been major efforts in water testing. The York County Soil and Water Conservation District is currently funded by the Biddeford Pool Monitoring Project grant. At the same time, Rob Simmons, Biddeford's Clam Warden, is certified and currently conducting water tests. The purpose of this initiative is to combine all current testing efforts into one comprehensive approach.....and to build a stronger team that will provide greater gains.
- **DMR Support** – Ari has committed the support of the DMR to assist us with the development of our Plan.
 - (a) **Examples of Approved Shellfish Management Plans.** There are several approved Plans on the DMR website that we can use as examples as we develop our Plan
 - (b) **Shellfish Ordinances.** There are also examples of Ordinances that can be used as a reference as we conduct a review of our Ordinances.
 - (c) **Water Quality Testing.** Ari also mentioned that Eric Schaffer, DMR's Water Quality Scientist, can assist as we build our Team and develop a unified approach for the Pool Water Testing Plan.

Special thanks to Ari for her commitment to continually support our Shellfish Commission efforts.

2. Harbor Master Summary

The purpose of this discussion is to provide Commission members with a summary of events that required the attention of our Harbor Masters during the period between scheduled Commission meetings. The summary is not all inclusive. There were numerous other events, too numerous to recount in these minutes.

- **Blocking the channel into the Pool** – There were four separate instances addressed by the Harbor Master.
- **Navigating in the fog** – Boat operator running without lights.
- **Fouled anchor line** – Harbor Master lending assistance.
- **Rowboat unable to navigate the gut** – Towed into the Pool by the Harbor Master.
- **Smashing glass** – A resident was purposely breaking glass on the rocks attempting to make “sea glass”. The Harbor Master politely stopped her and told her to buy a tumbler. We’re not making this up.
- **Meeting with UNE** – Harbor Master met with UNE officials to approve the replacement of an existing recreational pier. Federal, State and Local approvals were all in order and the Harbor Master approved the project.
- **2nd Meeting with UNE** – UNE officials and the City Manager met with both Biddeford and Saco Harbor Masters to review plans for a new pier at the Marine Science Research Center. A similar plan was presented and denied in 2013. This most recent plan was denied by both Harbor Masters because of its reach into the navigable channel in the Saco River.

3. Marshal Alexander Recognition Plaque

Cathy Ellis and Jeff Demers did a great job pouring a concrete pad in record time for the granite block. The go-fund-me site has been closed and a bank check drawn to be given to Richardson Memorial at the time of installation. The concrete pad will be sufficiently cured and sealed and the installation will be scheduled for early November.

4. Harbor and Shellfish Budgets

Shelly Macneil provided a copy of the existing budgets and Bill Emhiser did some great work, providing a spreadsheet with sufficient detail so that the budgets can be understood. There was not enough time left in the meeting for a budget discussion. A budget workshop has been scheduled.

Budget Workshop

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023

Location: Biddeford Pool Firehouse

Time: 6:30 PM

5. Emergency Response Points

Great work by Rob Simmons and Tom Milligan, but not enough time to finalize. An ERP workshop was scheduled.

ERP Workshop

Date: Tuesday, October 31, 2023
Location: Biddeford Pool Firehouse
Time: 5:00 PM

6. New Business and Questions

None.

7. Next Commission Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Location: Biddeford Pool Firehouse
Time: 6:30 PM