

City of Biddeford
Shellfish Conservation Committee
August 09, 2017 7:00 PM Biddeford Pool Fire Department
2nd Floor Conference Room

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - 2.1. June 14, 2017 Shellfish Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
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- 3. Old Business**
- 4. New Business**
- 5. Adjourn**

Biddeford Shellfish Commission

June 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Roland Pelletier, Abigail Carroll, Paul Laverriere, Sean Rummery, David Morrisette, Peter Bouthillette (Chair), Mike Swanton, Louise Merriman

Non-Board Members Present: Tom Milligan (City Engineer), Tom Craven (Chair of the Biddeford Conservation Commission)

Acceptance of May minutes. (David Morrisette) Seconded by Abigail Carroll

Old Business

Geese Problem -Paul L. indicated that the geese would be eradicated this fall due concerns about water contamination and lawn pollution. The USDA would be brought in prior to and post eradication to confirm the contaminants. This should be followed up with a concentrated grape juice spray that is put on lawns.

Educational Grant -Tom C. mentioned the educational grant about conservation practices such as soil testing. They received a 15% percent create on 319 (DEP statute, which is the Clean Water Act). Tom said that there is no need for additional monies.

Red Tide Issue – More areas (not in Biddeford Pool) were closed today. David said that the red tide stopped at the mouth of the pool.

Expansion of Diggable Areas - David and wondered if we could get an exemption to get areas back. He mentioned the Oyster Incubate project using ultra-violet light. Abigail said she was looking into this. Paul said that there are monies through the USDA that allow us to be able to dig in a closed rea and own an ultraviolet light system if we can show economic growth. There is money to do this. This is not “seed money” but an actual grant that is set up. This could potentially allow 2 more commercial diggers. Sean inquired about the areas that have been closed for around 3 years – what is happening with them? Peter indicated that he is trying to get DEP and DMR together re: Channel Cove area. Both need to be present and talk to Robbie (Environmental Code Officer?) at the City. They also want to expand into Ocean View and Day’s Landing. Peter said that Paul needs to speak with Walter Smith. The issue of the Spinny Creek controversy and potential lawsuit was also mentioned. Peter said we start with the goose issue with the USDA here and then, this could substantiate the testing that is needed in other areas. Abigail mentioned the ultraviolet light approach is not looked upon in a positive light and isn’t it better to avoid “hunting for problems” and instead to dig clams in better water. David raised another concern about ultraviolet light as it would open up the Saco River. David said that theoretically if we open up Hills Beach and half the flats, it would open up the Saco River to Marblehead. This could potentially support 10 diggers.

New Business

Harbor Dredging. Tom M. mentioned that there is a Saco meeting about the harbor dredging. Dredging will commence in Fall of 2017 and start with the upper part of the Saco River and in 2018 it takes out the Federal Arch and the Saco Beach side. Tom said that the City has put out bids for salvage companies as there are CMP cables and shopping carts in the river. The City

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could potentially reap 90,000 from these dredging efforts and will hopefully cover the cost of this project.

New Grant. Paul said the Christine Ohlman will be pursuing a grant in 2019-2020 to do Biddeford Pool sonar dredging. It was asked if it will blast the ledge up at the Corner of the Ice Breaks? Paul said that this was offered up, but the cut size needed to be a minimum of 9 tons.

Paul said that the Pool is surveyed every year and that the eel grass study is now finalized. The mud study is next.

Access to the Landing. Sean mentioned the problem with the Landing and the ability to only use one side due to cars and trailers. Peter said he would address this issue with the appropriate City official

David mentioned the need for 6 crab traps. There was a motion for more crab traps made by Roland and seconded by Abigail.

UNE Researchers. Peter mentioned the UNE has a researcher that will be in the Pool studying stripers, clams and crabs.

Holes on the Ramp. Careless boat captains are created holes on the ramp due to careless driving of their vessels. Peter said he would have Tom talk to them.

No Meeting for the Month of July.

Motion to adjourn by Abigail. Seconded by Mike.