

**Marine Resources Committee
Town of Bar Harbor
Minutes from Wednesday, April 13, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER – 4:06 p.m. Port Authority Building, Bar Harbor Municipal Pier

Committee Members Present: Megan McOsker (chair), Chris Petersen, Ron Landis, Matt Gerald, Scott Swann, Natalie Springuel. Harbor Master: Charlie Phippen.
Guests: David Dunton, Joshua Hodgkins, Fiona de Koning, Heidi Leighton (DMR)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 2016 minutes were approved 6-0.

Opening remarks: The committee started the meeting by thanking Mike McKernan for his work on the committee, Mike has resigned due to his other commitments and travel that made it too difficult for him to attend meetings.

OLD BUSINESS.

A. 2015 Clam Management Review/ASMR budget/ 2016 license allocation – The harbormaster summarized the information from the most recent year's clam management review that was filed with Maine Department of Marine Resources. The document includes information on total licenses and volunteer hours. Charlie mentioned that the two police officers that were trained as shellfish wardens might at some point be called to help with Mount Desert with the possibility of combined policing of the towns.

B. Hadley Point Signboard- The poster has been printed and will be picked up later this week. Charlie and Scott agreed to help get the sign up behind some plexiglass in the next month. The committee will pay for any printing charges for the signboard materials. The committee thanked Natalie for her work on the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Northeast Creek/ Thomas Bay: Maine DMR will be opening the closure at the mouth of Northeast Creek. This area was closed in 2011 due to high bacterial scores, both COA and DMR investigated the watershed and found no evidence of human contamination. It was suggested that the intermittent high counts were due to wildlife, either waterfowl or mammals. Many mammals like raccoons and otters use common latrines that if flooded could release large amounts of fecal material and bacteria. In terms of clam resource, it was mentioned that clams in that area appear to be recruiting some, but not growing at a fast rate, and seem to stall at less than an inch. Similar sized clams were mentioned in the Jordan River, attached to clumps of mussels. The clammers at the meeting said that small clams are common from Hadley point east to the causeway, and then also over at Berry Cove in Lamoine. The DMR report will be attached to the minutes.

B. Review of commercial harvester conservation hours; review requirements for 2016-2017. The conservation requirement for hours for 2016-17 is 7 hours. Currently 3 clammers have reached their hours.

C. Plan for spring surveys and summer work. After discussion, the committee decided on the following spring surveys:

Hadley Point – Friday pm. May 6th

Clark Cove – Saturday am May 7th

Otter Cove – Saturday am May 28th

Volunteer help is always appreciated for any of these events.

D. Water quality affecting marine resources in Bar Harbor. This year there is continued Healthy Beaches monitoring going on in Bar Harbor, however this year there is no cruise ship monitoring for water quality. Some bacterial sampling is also being done on Cromwell and Kebo Brook and new water level meters have been added to this stream.

E. Open topics.

i. Ferry terminal. There was a consultant update on March 10, there is information on the town website under cruise ship information. Currently the town is only involved on the potential transition of the cruise ship through consultants.

ii. Several individuals mentioned how high the recent high tide had come, when a storm combined with a high tide to produce very high water. Hadley point parking lot was underwater, and there were points along the shore walk that the tide had clearly gone above.

Next meeting will be on May 18, to be scheduled in the town office meeting room.

5:09 – Meeting adjourned.