

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Town of Bar Harbor

Special Meeting

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

CALL TO ORDER – 4:04 p.m. Port Authority Building, Bar Harbor Municipal Pier
Present: Scott Swann (chair), Chris Petersen, Joanna Fogg, Natalie Springuel, Fiona de Koning, Matt Gerald
Guests: David Dunton, Josh Kane, Giulia Cardoso, Alex de Koning

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –November minutes 6-0.

New Business

A. Broadreach Clam Restoration and Resilience Grant application:

This meeting was moved up a week to help with determining the parameters for a grant to the Broadreach Fund, due January 17,2020. These grants can be up to \$20,000.

i. Proposal ideas. The committee ideas focused on collecting seed under either nets or in Beal boxes, protecting the seed, possibly in nets on an aquaculture site, and then outplant them the next year, under netting if it is deemed necessary. We talked about two species, mostly about soft-shelled clams, *Mya arenaria*, but also quahogs, *Mercenaria mercenaria*.

The committee discussed what we already knew about the species biology, that recruitment of quahogs was possible in Blue Hill Bay, and for soft-shelled clams we have had good luck in Northern Frenchman bay (Twinnies, Hadley Point). If instead of 3 boxes at each location, we put up to 20, we could probably get up to 100,000 soft-shell clam seed, which should be a good start for any pilot project. Doing the project with our own seed, we will not have to buy seed from a hatchery. Quahog settlement has been more variable, so this part of the project would be more of a gamble. We have also been told by several sources that soft-shell clams will stop growing in nets at approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " and will need to be put in mud to grow to legal size. We have 3 or 4 aquaculture sites where could have nets to hold and raise young clams: two at COA lease, one with Alex de Koning's lease, and potentially Matt Gerald's lease in Blue Hill Bay. All parties involved have agreed to work on the project. The committee liked the idea of using multiple sites.

We believe that green crabs are our largest predator and our main problem limiting clam populations. We don't know if there is a size where either species is immune or less susceptible to predation, but quahogs are thought to be more resistant to predation.

The committee also talked about engaging not just College of the Atlantic students but MDI High School Students in the work. Natalie and Fiona agreed to reach out to teachers at MDIHS.

If successful, the group turned briefly to the idea of where the clams could be outplanted in 2021. Three areas came up for consideration: Hadley Point and the Twinnies, where we have had good clam growth recently, and Otter Creek, where we had poor recruitment but where adult clams have historically done well. Finally, if his project was successful, then we could consider expanding this project with individuals being able to get a municipal lease for some intertidal.

ii. Budget. With the ideas outlined, we turned to several budget ideas.

We want to pay non-committee members for the time they put on work for the grant. This could include clambers and money for boat rental as needed. David and Josh agreed to have their names associated with the grant. We agreed to ask for a base rate of \$30/hour for field work, \$50/hour for boat time with captain. We also went over costs for equipment, including Beal boxes

(80), lantern nets, and larger nets (20) for deployment of clams in 2021. Finally, we talked about putting in some money for a college intern to help supervise the project, as well as money for refreshments for students that help with the work.

We will ask the town to be the fiscal agent, which is our preference. If they decline, we believe COA would be willing to be the fiscal agent. We believe the final proposal will be between \$6-8,000.

The committee then voted to go forward with this proposal as outlined, with the details of the grant to be done by committee members over the next week by sharing an electronic document.

B. Meeting Announcements

There will be a scoping session at the High School for a mussel seed collection aquaculture lease in Frenchman Bay. It will be held January 23rd at 6:30PM at the High School

C. Next meeting:

Our next meeting was scheduled for a special time, at February 12 (several people were planning to be gone February 19).

We are still looking for one new member, the committee had a couple of ideas they will pursue.

D. Topic for next meeting;

David asked that we consider closing Hadley Point between the two big boulders
Junior licensing

Conservation hours: David Dunton and Josh Kane received 1.5 hours for their attendance at today's meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Springuel and Chris Petersen