

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Town of Bar Harbor
Special Meeting
Wednesday, February 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER – 4:04 p.m. Port Authority Building, Bar Harbor Municipal Pier
Present: Scott Swann (chair), Chris Petersen, Natalie Springuel, Fiona de Koning, Matt Gerald
Guests: Heidi Leighton, Alex de Koning
Apologies: Joanna Fogg (out of town)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –November minutes 5-0.

New business:

A. Maine Shellfish Restoration and Resilience Grant Decision. We have received word that we will be funded for \$3,800. One comment was that DMR may be able to help with some of the supplies, and Heidi agreed to see how many recruitment boxes she had to give us. We also talked about alternative funding for some of the elements of the grant (the total grant was for approximately \$7,200).

B. MDI Islander Story. The committee complimented the chair for his quotes on the MDI islander story on our grant application. The story ran in the February 6 issue and was titled: How do your clam flats grow?

C. Changes in commercial license for 2020-2021. The committee discussed potential changes for commercial licenses for 2020-2021. We currently have no youth commercial category, so anyone under 18 must pay the full price for a commercial license. To encourage young people to go clamming, we would like to create a category for a residential junior license.

The committee has also been concerned about using a set number for commercial licenses. We feel that we have benefitted from having commercial clambers do conservation time, it has increased communication and interaction with a major stakeholder. However, when we use a set number of licenses, any licenses not sold after 90 days are available to any clammer in the state without doing conservation time in the town.

We explored the idea of changing our resident commercial license to an unlimited number. This would exclude any individuals over 16 that had not done conservation time from getting a license. We would set the limit for non-resident commercial licenses for both regular and junior licenses to the state minimum. In this case, that means that we would not offer a non-residential license in a category unless we sold six resident licenses. The number of non-resident commercial licenses would range as resident licenses increased in the following manner:

Number of resident commercial	Number of non-resident commercial
0-5	0
6-10	1
11-20	2
21-30	3

and so on.

The same would be true for our junior licenses.

We believe this will create a more stable licensing policy for the town with the correct incentives, however we also realize that this change might have unanticipated consequences. Because of that, we plan on revisiting this policy every year for the next several years, and if it creates problems with overharvesting of the clam resources in the town, we will move back to a more limited licensing system in our yearly allocation request.

We would also create a junior residential commercial license. We are not sure if we need to create a youth non-residential commercial license as well, but for now have listed one in the

proposed ordinance changes. We are adapting the language from other towns, such as Gouldsboro, that currently have junior (youth) licenses. These licenses are typically half price of the regular commercial license price, so incentivize youth to try clamming as a potential vocation. After substantial discussion of the benefits and costs of such a change, we voted 5-0 to send this ordinance and allocation change to DMR to approval, after which we would send the approved ordinance to the town council for final approval.

Adjourned at 5:18pm

Respectfully submitted by Chris Petersen