

Members present: Mark Landers, William (Billy) Alwardt, and Elizabeth (Betty) Mansure.

Others Present: Charles (Chuck) Fisher, Wendy Brough, Ed O'Melia (FoS) and Nicole Morey

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM

Constable's Report

Shellfish Constable Chuck Fisher read his first report to the Committee.

Member Mansure remarked that she was glad that he asked for the scallop seed earlier.

There was a discussion about seeing a natural set and Chuck said he would be willing to sample near the cages for more but he wouldn't have any prior year stats to compare. He advised that most of the cages are in Lagoon Pond with six to eight bags per cage. He also put two cages in Sengekontacket and one in Farm Pond near the eelgrass.

Motion: To accept the Shellfish Constable's July 2019 report. By: Member Mansure. Second: Member Martino. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

New Business

Part-time Deputy Shellfish Constable

Wendy Brough said that Garrett Albiston is interested in the year-round part-time deputy constable. She looked at the Department's budgeted salary line items and thought that he could start at a higher rate as he would be doing the same work as the full-time deputy.

Motion: To recommend hiring Garrett Albiston as the Part-time Year-round Deputy Constable. By: Chairman Landers. Second: Member Mansure. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Members discussed the annual contaminated shellfish relay and increasing the amount of bushels by increasing the number of days. Chuck thought they should wait another week in 2020.

Wendy advised that there will be a presentation of appreciation to David Grunden on Tuesday, July 23rd.

New Business

Sengekontacket - Kite boarding

Chuck handed out the article in the paper regarding kite-boarding.

Member Mansure said that the kiteboarders are targeting Billy Alwardt when he is in his boat on Sengekontacket. She advised that if he gets knocked out of the boat, he would not be able to get back into it.

Member Alwardt confirmed that one kite-boarder was using his boat as a target; he would come right at him then turn.

Members and Constable felt that action was unacceptable so perhaps there should be rules regarding them in Sengekontacket.

Chuck would like to change when the sections in Sengekontacket are open and closed; he suggested having Sections 1-3 open and close Sections 4-6, etc. He felt it make it easier for seeding and patrolling as well as be less confusing to recreational permit holders. He added that if three sections are closed then there could be kite-boarding allowed in that area.

Members do not want to see the kiteboarders or wind surfers out of the pond but don't want to see them targeting people shellfishing either.

Member Martino wanted to know the kiteboarders would know which sections they could use.

Chuck said that he is against kiteboard schools in Sengekontacket. He said this will take a while to change the sections.

Motion: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen the following language be added to the Shellfish Regulations:

- **Anyone shellfishing has right of way at all times on the water, and kiteboarders must maintain a minimum buffer zone of 150 feet from anyone shellfishing, operating boats, rafts, cages and upwellers. The restricted area in Sengekontacket Pond will be marked by buoys.**

By: Member Martino. Second: Chairman Landers. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Old Business

Brush Pond

Mark mentioned that he has seen many people in Brush Pond.

Betty said that she in the past she asked for signs to be put up in that area but has never seen any.

Members discussed the history of Brush Pond.

Chuck agreed to put up signs that say it is a restricted area for shellfishing

Friends of Sengekontacket update

Ed O'Melia advised that the MVC is writing a grant proposal to FoS requesting depth measurements plus dredging.

Gauges

Dan said that they would like to widen the channel.

Betty asked Chuck what his policy is going to be for recreational permit holders who do not have a gauge while shellfishing. She said a woman yelled at her after she asked if she had one and no one has had a gauge when she asked.

Mark said that people are supposed to purchase a gauge when they get their license.

Dan said that the Selectmen's office does.

Chuck responded that the only wiggle room he allows is with the actual permit because they are in the water. He will ask for their name and he can check the list which he has in the truck and on his phone. He stressed that people must have gauges on their person when shellfishing whether recreational or commercial. He requested that if any Committee member has an issue with someone without a license or gauge to contact him.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole L Morey
Shellfish Secretary