

**Shellfish Commission and Town Council Joint Meeting**  
**Monday, March 22, 2010**  
**Police/Fire Station, Beach Avenue**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**Present from Shellfish Commission:** Chair Peter Voskamp, Vice Chair Lois Mitchell Bendokas, Herman Gempp, John Grant

**Present from Town Council:** First Warden Kim Gaffett, Second Warden Ray Torrey, Ken Lacoste, Richard Martin. Also present was Town Manager Nancy Dodge

**Not Present:** Shellfish Commission: John Swienton, Catherine Puckett and Arthur Rose

**Not Present:** Town Council: Dr. Peter Baute

Also present in the audience were Dan West of the Block Island Times, Chris Warfel of Sun Oyster Farms and Administrative Assistant Bonny Ryan for the recording of the minutes.

**Note: Lois Mitchell Bendokas, Herman Gempp and Kim Gaffett arrived after 6:20 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Voskamp at 6:20 p.m.

**Approve Minutes of February 22, 2010:**

This item was tabled until the next meeting in a motion by Mr. Gempp and seconded by Ms. Mitchell-Bendokas

Ayes 4 (Voskamp, Bendokas, Gempp, Grant)      Nays 0  
Absent: 2 (Swienton, Puckett)

**Report by:**

**Chair:** Mr. Voskamp reported on the attached map showing the area that the Commission would like to recommend to the Council as a grow-out site for this season. They pointed out that the CRMC is ultimately responsible for the aquaculture leases.

**Vice Chair:** Ms. Mitchell-Bendokas reported on the number of bushels for restocking the sites and Mr. Gempp and Mr. Grant will be responsible to coordinate the boat and tides for pickup.

**Discussion with the Town Council**

- Shellfish Ordinance and Harbor Management Plan as it pertains to Aquaculture site(s)

Aquaculture is not addressed in the Ordinances or the Harbor Management Plan. Kim Gaffett suggested that the Commission should come up with recommendations for both and that the Ordinance should be on the next agenda to set a Public Hearing. Ms. Mitchell-Bendokas said that the Commission had such a list of recommendations and she would get it to the Council.

- Shellfish Warden

Nancy Dodge said that advertising for this position will be in April and that Joe Fallon was acting Shellfish Warden.

- Shellfish Commission charge and membership

The Commission members did not see the need for an increase in their number. They preferred to have subcommittees to address some of the issues. These subcommittees could be made up of members outside of the Commission with Town Council approval.

Ms. Gaffett suggested that the Commission decide what subcommittees are necessary and what the goals are of those subcommittees. Suggested were:

1. Aquaculture committee (already exists)
2. Water Quality
3. Restoration (to include eel grass and inner pond)

The Council will look at the charge to the Shellfish Commission to add these items. It will look to the Shellfish Commission for recommendations on subcommittee members.

- Softshell clam status

After discussion, it was decided that these beds should be closed for another year.

Mr. Gempp asked the Council for help in expediting a summer over area for product. Mr. Voskamp will call the correct agency to request an experimental site given that the changes to the Ordinance and the Harbor Management Plan will take time.

With no further business to discuss at 7:45 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Grant and seconded by Ms. Mitchell-Bendokas to adjourn and voted unanimously.

Minutes approved: 4/5/2010

Bonny Ryan