

Shellfish Commission Special Meeting Minutes
1/24/19
7 PM Clinton Police Department Community Room

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Committee members present: Wayne Church, Al Walker, Ed Eadie, Tom Riccio and Steve Baird.

Guests: George of Indian River Shellfish (I.R.S.) and Ryan Grenon of CRAHD

Meeting opened with Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM.

A template is being worked on for all aspects of opening areas to recreational shellfishing, and will be presented to all affected parties, such as Park and Rec, Town Clerks office, etc. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will need to be approved by the town's lawyer. Organization of all notifications to website, social media, DABA, CRAHD, Clinton Police Dept and others for closures will need to be done, assigning tasks to all those concerned. Phone line notices for closing and re-opening of recreational area (s) will be included in these plans. The MoU final editing will be handled by Chairman W. Church with A. Walker, approved by general agreement.

Al Walker will be handling shellfish commission website and other online presences and linking them to town website and will be coordinating with clerk and IT. Website and other venues will need to show open or closed status and send notifications of closing and reopening. Approved on a motion by S. Baird and seconded by T. Riccio, all were in favor.

The website will contain multiple pages to serve as a reference for permit holders and will need sections for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), maps, regulations, including rules of forfeiture of shellfish and permits for violations. Permits will be sold at Town Clerk's office in Town Hall and will require photo Identification to obtain. Rates for Residents \$25, Seniors/Military Veterans \$15, Non-Clinton Residents \$75 Non-Clinton Resident Seniors \$65 and Daily Rates \$25 will be posted as well. Replacement permits will be limited to one per year at \$10.

The daily limits for each species are set in accordance with local standards. Local standards will be generally used as a guideline for most regulations. These standards were approved on a motion by A. Walker and seconded by T. Riccio, all were in favor.

Daily Limits for all permits:

Blue Mussels 1/4 Bushel

Razor Clams 1/8 Bushel

Steamers 1/4 Bushel

Oysters ½ Bushel

Round Clams ½ Bushel

Shellfishing permits only license the ability to harvest shellfish in approved open areas and do not constitute parking permits or grant access to private property. Some portions may only be accessible by boat, permittees are asked to respect the rights of all adjoining properties. Disruptive activities may be grounds for ejection.

Local standards will be generally used as a guideline for most regulations. These standards were approved on a motion by A. Walker and seconded by T. Riccio, all were in favor.

Signs at either end of conditional open area will be researched and ordered with a budget of no more than \$1200 delivered for 5 signs total. Approved on a motion by A. Walker and seconded by S. Baird, all were in favor. Signs currently in the area that say No Shellfishing will be removed and reused elsewhere.

Maps showing the recreational shellfishing areas will be needed as well as maps of other areas where shellfish maybe found but are not in an approved safe area. A copy will be made available to guide permit holders and other interested parties.

Indian River Shellfish will be asked to do ongoing monthly reports on the production and health of Oysters in town waters, coordinated by Tom Riccio.

Another water sampling run was conducted in January by A. Walker, results should be in soon.

E. Eadie has found demand is up for clams and supplies remain low so prices are high. As ongoing supply for stocking and reseedling is challenging to procure, a permit may be required to move clams soon, in the meantime the commission will be working on a lease arrangement with I.R.S. to move inaccessible clams in deep water to the recreational area where permit holders can harvest them. Seeding of small clams will be needed to keep this plan sustainable.

A motion to adjourn was submitted by A. Walker, seconded by E. Eadie and passed unanimously at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine King