

Deer Isle Stonington Shellfish Committee Meeting Minutes 01/08/2025

Committee Members in Attendance:

Crystal Gove - Chair, Prior Commercial Harvester
Phelps Brown - Vice Chair, Evergreen Garden Club, Mariner's Park
Emaly Piecuch - Secretary, Microbiologist
Bill Gove Sr. - Commercial Harvester
Dave Goding - Recreational Harvester
Ben Hardie - Commercial Harvester
Kurt Ciomei - Commercial Harvester
George Powell - Prior Chair and Harvester
Raelene Pert - Shellfish Warden

10 Guests, 2 Selectmen

6:12 PM - Meeting Start Time

Crystal: Minutes from last month will be available in the next few weeks.

Crystal moves to table meeting minutes for two weeks, all in favor.

Crystal motioned for Phelps to be voted in as vice chair, 2nd Ben, all in favor.

Crystal motioned for Emaly to be voted secretary 2nd Phelps, all in favor.

New Year Time To Review Meeting Expectations-

Please check out the attached document, the following is just a summary: Check Out Cell Phones (quiet), Keep to Agenda (Comment as needed, please stay on task), If Questioned by the Public or Committee (Raise hand quietly and wait), Topics last more than 5 minutes, If there are complaints that don't concern committee. DMR, contacts provided, clam poaching, issues with town or warden.

Agenda
addition

3 visited meetings for 2025, 2 for 2026: Set up to facilitate specific issues, etc.

If folks are not acting appropriately, they will be asked to leave

David Goding was signed in through Heather Cormier, Town Clerk Deer Isle as a new member of the Shellfish Committee. David is not certain about his schedule and availability for the year since he just retired recently and could be unavailable, but wants to be involved with supporting the committee no matter what. All in agreement, David is on the committee for the time being.

Aquaculturists Alison Melvin and Abby Barrows, have expressed a specific interest in being on the committee, but there is scepticism among the Stonington Selectmen of a conflict of interest.

The marine resources committee has recently started to talk about how to get a reasonable and meaningful aquaculture ordinance for the town of Deer Isle that makes sense. We want to be

able to control it but may not have any ordinance at all. Deer Isle does not have a harbor master or harbor committee where as Stonington does.

Ken Willette wants to be on the committee for Stonington since a chair just opened up after Lucas had to step down. For this to happen it needs to go to a vote through the town's selectman.

Any other thoughts for candidates please let us know by March, there will be another opening at that time.

Fundraising this Year: 4th of July, T-Shirts, Raffle, Jake McCarty had previously stated he could do steamed clams at his Lobster Dinners, there are a number of cookers that will be supplied with pots and propane. Will look into donations for other things. Some folks have an idea to discuss the idea of plates and bowls for the party.

Alton's question: if clams are donated, what is the tradeoff- what is the plan? Used to get 2hr a bushel. If it is considered a conservation event then we could give hours to folks for donating or for doing the 4th of July party. But folks need 12 hours of conservation this coming year.

4hrs is the suggestion from the crowd, a vote is taken: all in favor 6 approve/2 abstain. 4 hours per bushel for donation, etc. If there are uncooked leftovers, can they be sold to Brad? Yes, but it was not needed last time.

Evelyn Duncan asked how the money is going to be donated to each of these two towns, 50/50 seems fair but it makes it more complicated. What percent of this cash goes where? Crystal G feels that Deer Isle/Stonington should be split 50/50, all in favor of equal shares.

Phelps suggests that a 4th of July Event Committee be created, who would be on it and when would it meet? Would we want to set a time to discuss in an additional meeting for the event, etc? Crystal expects the whole Shellfish Committee to be apart of the event, so no special committee needs to be made, but a meeting JUST for the 4th of July is scheduled for March 26th, time and place will come at a later date.

Raelene Update, as of recently the clam price was \$5 a pound in some places, \$4 the current price for most.. Plenty of folks out digging at this time. Fine money- update: June of 23-Jan 25 16 summons 8500, all but two of those paid (1000), minus 7 summons incarcerated, out of those three, they had three summons each. Three more people have been revoked from Maine state clam digging, have payment plans- \$1500, \$3500 for the incarcerated folks, down to \$2000, two more awaiting trial in Waldo county. One more person has completely vanished, they have not been to court, and the address is unknown. The town is owed \$7000- bottom line and we don't know when we'll see that money.

Seeding Project Survey Update: Schedule for grant experiment, will be doing Fish Creek April 18, 7 am-11 am. Meeting at the Deer Isle town office as usual.

Fisherman's Forum: Shellfish Focus Day Samoset Resort in Rockport Feb 27th, 8:30-2:30 or so.

Open Call to Audience:

Question about conservation events this year: there is only one scheduled event, there will be more details of the additional events coming up shortly.

Next Meeting Feb 12, 6 PM Deer Isle Town Hall.

Meeting Adjourned.

Cynthia Gove

Phelps Brown

Conroy Gove

Ann B.

Jason Powell

Billy Mc

Ann A. A.

Kurt Coomes