

Town of Kittery-Shellfish Conservation Committee
Approved minutes from 2/3/2022 Meeting

Present: Todd Rollins (Zoom), Daniel Clapp, Daniel O'Reilly, Tim Craven

Absent: Peter Thomas, Erin Kempster

Staff: Chuck Moran, John Brosnihan

Guests: Ari Leach (DMR) (Zoom) and Dave Webber (York Shellfish Warden) (Zoom)

- Called to order at 4:08pm
- Approval of Agenda as presented by T. Rollins
- Minutes of 10/6/2021 meeting reviewed. Unanimous approval
- T. Rollins presented current Kittery Title 12 Ordinance and committee reviewed. D. Webber noted that York has a senior (over 65) and youth (14 and under) categories for licenses.
- Committee expressed consensus not to have any reciprocation of licenses and eliminate such language from Ordinance. C. Moran, J. Brosnihan, A. Leach and D. Weber concurred.
- Discussion of including language in ordinance specifying suspension, revocation and other enforcement actions clearly. C. Moran, J. Brosnihan, Ari Leach and D. Webber suggested the "more detail the better" will facilitate enforcement. Consensus of committee concurred.
- Discussion of fact Brave Boat Harbor (BBH) is legally open by State but Town not fully aware. Discussed need for consistent language and terms needed (i.e.: "closed" "open", "prohibited", "allowed", etc). A. Leach to provide guidance. Discussion of opening a portion of Spruce Creek.
- A. Leach explained ability to seek approval for "Conservation Closure". Can be done for designated areas. D. Weber and A. Leach strongly recommended the need for very detailed boundaries and physical elements as boundaries (ie: trussel). A. Leach recommended against seeking "small areas" for closure. Discussed splitting Spruce Creek into 2 areas.
- Committee consensus was to sync with York schedule annually. Discussion occurred about a 2022 special season, sometime between May and September, to satisfy pent up demand in Kittery.
- Discussion of putting "allowed" and "prohibited" areas on the actual license. A. Leach and D. Webber recommended against this. D. Webber will send copy of pamphlet he distributes with license purchase. (C. Moran subsequently received and will distribute)
- Current DMR regulations call for 30-day review after submission of license request. A. Leach said she would work with us on this. Once licenses approved by DMR, 10-day notice to public before issuance. Discussion was also held relative to timing to pass ordinance/fee changes and required Town Council approval. Could delay actual issuance beyond current York season (ends last Sunday in April).
- Discussion held on definition of "resident" and "non-resident". C. Moran and J. Brosnihan recommended very specific documentation necessary to facilitate Town Clerk determining at time of purchase.
- Consensus or committee to not allow commercial digging. Discussion of language on website. Discussion of just stating "no commercial licenses offered".
- D. Webber spoke of how essential it is to York to "protect the natural resource for town residents".
- Adjourned at 5:00pm