

Town of Wareham

Marine Resources Commission

Meeting date: November 10, 2015

Attendees: Larry Bearse, Warren Hall Jr., Don Jepson, Dick Wheeler

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM

The meeting notes from the October meeting were read and approved.

Discussion was held on a number of topics, but without the harbormaster or a representative from his office in attendance there was more speculation than information and answers to questions.

One member made the observation that the commission members are not very knowledgeable about the aquaculture that is being done in town and that it would be beneficial to have information on what is currently going on and future plans the harbormaster is considering. One member queried whether the harbormaster has had inquiries from individuals seeking to use some of the grants that are not currently in use. The commission members agreed that they have little to no knowledge as to the decision process for grants being given.

The question was raised, because of the many duties the harbormaster has taken on with regard to moorings, repairing and adding docking floats, rebuilding the Onset boat ramp, providing launch service in Onset, etc., and in light of the fact there is significant increase in oyster aquaculture, if the town had in the past considered or should consider having a dedicated shellfish officer.

Referencing an article in Wareham Week in which a deputy harbormaster was quoted as saying that his department would provide transportation to Wickets Island as part of the Buzzards Bay Coalition's plans to provide access to the island, one member raised the question as to the legality of the town using the launch service to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

I attest these are the true MRC minutes of the meeting held November 10, 2015.



Donald H. Jepson, Chairman

Please cc: Board of Selectmen, Harbormaster Office.