

Submitted by: TOWN OF PHIPPSBURG Approved by Selectmen:
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
John M. Young MINUTES
Administrator April 29, 2009

Meeting convened at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall with Selectmen Pye, Douglass and Perkins in attendance.

I. Meetings and Hearings:

1. Meet with Richard Lemont, Chairman of the Shellfish Committee, to discuss having a revolving shellfish conservation closure between flats west of Cape Small and east of Cape Small (New Meadows and Kennebec) and other Shellfish harvesting issues.

The revolving shellfish conservation closure issue was tabled from the April 8, 2009 Selectmen's Meeting. Mr. Lemont reported that 23 harvesters were present at the April 23, 2009 Shellfish Conservation Commission meeting. A written vote was taken and the original proposal from April 8th failed (Yes - 10, No - 12). Other alternate proposals were discussed. Finally, those in attendance voted (Yes - 15, No - 6) to close The Branch for conservation from January 1st to March 31st each year. The Shellfish Conservation Commission then voted to support this. Selectmen voted (3-0) to enact the closure.

Mr. Lemont explained that the harvesters have completed surveys of Dromore Bay, Brighams Cove, Brightwater and The Basin. The Shellfish Commission had voted to open the section of The Basin north of the mill dam on August 1st. This area had been reseeded and closed for conservation but the seed clams did not take, however here are still clams in the area. Selectmen voted (3-0) for this area to be reopened on August 1st.

Mr. Lemont reported that he had attended the Shellfish Advisory Council meeting in Augusta. The Town had applied for a pilot program for accelerated testing of The Branch to locate pollution sources which are keeping it closed to harvesting during the summer. Although Phippsburg had been recommended for approval by the subcommittee, the full council voted not to approve The Branch for the pilot program because it is currently a seasonally opened area and those pilot projects in St. Georges River would put more harvesters to work. He added that DMR will still be conducting shoreline surveys along The Branch and dye testing the septic systems of buildings within 500 feet of shore. He also mentioned that there were still grants available for overboard discharges and failed systems.

Mr. Lemont stated that the Maine Seafood Alliance will be using automated rain gauges downeast to monitor rainfall. The gauges cost between \$700 and \$750 and you must have a dedicated computer and internet connection. He also mentioned that there has been a change in the DMR water test program. There have been issues with a test coming back

good one day and than bad the next. DMR now requires two positive testes in a row to re-open an area.

Mr. Lemont reported that LD1399 (An Act Concerning Water Quality in Watersheds) is coming before the legislature. It pertains to wastewater management systems and septic system. He will be reviewing it in depth.

Mr. Lemont stated that the new shellfish management plan in the Kennebec has been implemented. A flow gauge has been installed and any river flow greater then 30,000 CFPM will cause an automatic shutdown. He added that he will know by end of year if the Kennebec River is closed to harvesting more due to this.

II. New Business

1. Gary Morong – Update on the swine flu (H1N1 Virus).

Gary Morong, Emergency Management Director, stated that there have been 3 confirmed cases in Maine. He read an e-mail from Misty Green, Sagadahoc County's Emergency Management Director. The Maine Center for Disease Control (MCDC) still expects a pandemic. A pocket Pandemic Flu Guide is available at the Town Office and Administrator Young has a link off the Town's website to the MCDC for updates. Director Morong added that he didn't want to panic anyone, just wanted to pass the information on. He added that if everyone uses some common sense it should keep the flu from spreading.

Selectman Douglass mentioned that the schools had sent information home with the students. He also covered the basics of prevention which were listed on an e-mail from the MCDC.

Mr. Morong recommended that citizens start watching the news and checking the websites for updated information.

III. Selectmen/Administrator Comments and Announcements

1. Administrator Mike Young
Announced upcoming meetings and events.

IV. Review and Sign:

1. Accounts payable and payroll warrants.
2. Minutes.
3. Shellfish Commission (Regular) Appointment for Stephen Warner.
Selectmen reviewed and voted (3-0) to approve the above.

V. Adjournment - Selectmen voted (3-0) to adjourn at 6.30 p.m.