



**Fairhaven Marine Resources Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2025**

**Present:** Chair, Michael McNamara, Vice-Chair Andy Jones via zoom, David Hebert, Michelle Potter, Robert Pink and Harbormaster Timothy Cox.

**Absent:** Robert Hobson and Select Board member Andrew Saunders

The meeting was videotaped by Cable Access and Zoom meeting application.

Mr. McNamara opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2024:**

**Motion: Mr. Pink motioned to approve minutes. Mr. Hebert seconded, Vote (5-0-0)**

**Hilites -2024 review:** Mr. McNamara presented the Hilites of 2024 which included a brief description of what the Marine Resource Committee discussed and recommended each month in 2024. He did not read though but the document will be available online to view.

**Vessel Waterway Fee:** Mr. Cox presented information on the increased Waterway fee and the implications it had on the 2024 season. Mr. Cox recommended \$2.00 per foot for residents and \$6.00 per foot for non-residents. Discussion ensued to make a recommendation for a new lower fee to be put in place. Dredging has been a big expense for the department. Mr. McNamara would like to have additional information and data on the taxation and expenses to better understand the fee. Item will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Shellfish Fee:** Mr. Cox reviewed the shellfish fee for out of town residents and how many were sold in 2023 and 2024. The fee was increased from 135 to 275 which impacted sales greatly. Discussion ensued regarding the cost and also the fines for shellfishing without a permit.

**Motion:** Mr. Pink motioned to recommend the non- resident shellfish permit to be changed to \$175.00. Mr. Hebert seconded. Vote (5-0-0)

**BPW representative Marine Resources project update:**

Mr. Hobson was absent so no update was presented.

**W.I. Dredging Update:** Mr. McNamara read an update on the time schedule provided by Foth Engineering. The time schedule is much longer than originally anticipated. He would like this information be forwarded to the Selectboard. Once the area is dredged, West Island will be maintained on a schedule.

**Harbormaster Plan:** Mr. Cox along with the town Planner and a Selectboard member is part of a committee to write a Harbormaster plan. This plan needs to be rewritten every ten years. One meeting has taken place so far and a consultant has been picked to help coordinate and write this plan. Mr. Cox would like to have a joint meeting to include the Marine Resource Committee, the Planning Board and the Selectboard to bounce ideas of what should be included in this plan. Discussion ensued about items that should be in the plan.

**Harbormaster Updates:** Mr. Cox would like to put a pump out station somewhere in Fairhaven. He is also working on the updates needed for Seaview Ave and repairs at Hoppy's Landing. The Police boat that was given to us needs a few repairs that are being evaluated. This vessel will be repainted and primarily used on West Island.

**Shellfish Updates:** Shellfish was closed 182 days in 2024 due to the outfall from New Bedford. Mr. Cox attended a CSO meeting at the Buzzards Bay Coalition to discuss future plans to improve the situation. North Cove will be planted this year with 800 bushels. He also is exploring the idea of having an upweller back in the budget for FY27.

**Any other business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of this meeting:**  
None

**Next meeting will be held February 6, 2025 at 6:30 pm. If any unforeseen circumstance comes up prior, an earlier meeting will be scheduled.**

**Motion:** Mr. Pink motioned to adjourn. Ms. Potter seconded. Vote (5-0-0)  
**The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.**

**Respectively submitted,**  
**Sharon Mills**  
**Recording Secretary**