

Called to order at 7:30 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall.

Present: Warren Doty, Frank Fenner, Riggs Parker, Tim Carroll, Jonathan Revere, Heather Curtis, Julia Rappaport, Sam Bungey, Dennis Jason, Mr. & Mrs. Graeme Flanders, John Armstrong, Barbara Armstrong, Wesley Brighton, Andy Goldman, Susan & Lynn Murphy, Jonathan Mayhew, Wayne Iacono, Heather Sussman, Louis Stanley Larsen, Louis Samuel Larsen (elder), Paul H. Mayhew, Jane Slater, Isaiah Scheffer, Everett Poole, Chris Murphy, Chris Macleod, Steve Larsen, John Larsen and Paul MacDonald.

Shellfish – Up-weller

Mr. Doty presented a slide show on the Bay Scallop program. It was reported that there was a large natural set of seed this summer. Mr. Doty said the seed grew more quickly in the up-weller at the smaller sizes and that it was well worth the effort involved.

The group reviewed the efforts of the Shellfish Propagation Agent on Menemsha Pond this summer. Mr. Doty said that 250,000 “quarter-sized” seed was distributed around the pond. There was discussion about moving some of the natural set of seed so it doesn't die. Mr. Poole said they survived when moved in March one time.

Mr. Doty said this was the end of stage 1 and encouraged people to submit their ideas for stage 2. He said that the Commercial season might open November 1st.

Dredging

The group discussed the desirability of having the channel into Menemsha Pond dredged. It was agreed to only dredge if it was to improve shellfish resources and not dredge to improve navigation into Menemsha Pond. The group did not want to have more transient yachts using Menemsha Pond for fear they would pollute and kill off the shellfish resources.

Various scenarios were discussed. Two concepts that were most well received were re-dredging the old channel to the west of Eddy's Island or dredging an inner channel through Muddy Cove around Pease Point out to Burton's camp.

It was agreed that making the channel straight would not be good for shellfish, and that a crooked channel was best for keeping the spat and seed in the pond. One old plan that was revisited was to dredge from the flats and place the material in the deeper unproductive waters just south and create productive shellfish flats.

In a straw poll, 28 were in favor of some sort of dredging to support shellfish resources, two were opposed to dredging, and only one was in favor of dredging to improve navigation. It was agreed that we should cooperate with Aquinnah on any dredging in Menemsha Pond.

Harbor Multipurpose Building

Barbara Armstrong asked who requested this building. Mr. Fenner said it started with the Harbor Department responding to a request from the Selectmen about their needs. Mr. Fenner said it was envisioned to be a small building that could house the harbor office and administrative assistant, give the police a place to store a bicycle and

rain gear, provide storage space for the beach department's gear and wheelchair, and an extra area for an ice machine and fish buyer.

Jane Slater said she heard the first concern was for a fish buyer and she asked if the Selectmen had considered the fish buyer situation. Mr. Louis Larsen (elder) responded that a year ago his son Louis Larsen had renovated his fish house on the bulkhead and installed an ice machine. Louis Larsen (younger) said he no longer had any interest in buying fish from that building and said that the town should make him an offer to buy his building on the bulkhead. Jonathan Mayhew and Barbara Armstrong told the Selectmen to jump on this offer. Mr. Doty thanked Mr. Larsen for his offer and asked him if it was a serious offer. Mr. Larsen said it was. Mr. Doty thanked him for the offer and said the Selectmen would take this up at their next meeting.

Chris Murphy suggested using a portable building located somewhere else for the Harbor Master. He repeated that the harbor department was never awarded the lot its shack is on and that it should be returned to commercial fishing instead of being built upon. He suggested near the Comfort Station or the other side of the gas station. He said there was no need for more harbor or shellfish building space. He also said the beach department gear should get off the fishermen's lots too.

John Larsen said that he thought the town should spend shellfish money on propagation instead of on an office for the Propagation Agent. He said the Shellfish Restoration Committee recommended a staff person to be out on the pond working and not in the office.

Mr. Parker responded to some prior comments made by Mr. Larsen (elder). He said that he was not a fisherman but that he supported keeping the commercial fishing village in Menemsha, finding a fish buyer has been important and he was proud of that effort. Mr. Parker said that if we didn't have a commercial fish buyer paying a fair price in our harbor, the harbor would go to the yachts.

Jonathan Mayhew said that the situation facing commercial fishermen is beyond the town, it is on the federal level. He applauded everyone for their efforts to try and save Menemsha's commercial fishing fleet. He made an observation that this was the first summer in memory that no one landed a single swordfish in Menemsha Harbor. Mr. Mayhew said he was proud of those trying to make it better, but counseled them to not get too frustrated.

Wayne Iacono asked the Selectmen if they would keep the fishermen informed about this building plan. He said it was nice to have the open space on the bulkhead and opposed a new building for the Harbor Master. Mr. Doty said it would have to go to a Town Meeting. Chris Murphy asked the Selectmen to withdraw the \$1,000 article from the STM warrant while they considered Mr. Larsen's offer.

Mr. Doty thanked everyone for coming to this joint meeting. Mr. Parker moved and Mr. Fenner seconded a motion to go into executive session to discuss land acquisition and not return to regular session. Parker – Aye. Fenner - Aye Doty – Aye.

The Selectmen moved to Conference Room #1 for their Executive Session at 9:05 PM. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

APPROVED: November 6th 3007