

ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Attendance: Tim Linkkila (Chairman), Cecil Newcomb (Vice Chairman), Dave Dunford (Selectman Liaison), Dawson Farber (Harbor Master), Marty Leonard, Judy Scanlon, Don Bakker, Jack Moran, Mark Matheson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted with one amendment. Dave Dunford stated that a lease with Goose Hummock was not in place as stated but is being negotiated to be done.

Dave Dunford thanked everyone who attended the town meeting.

**HARBOR MASTERS REPORT:**

Dawson stated that the Nauset Estuary is completely shut down for shell fishing because of the red tide. Don asked Dawson what triggers the start of the red tide. Don thought that the heavy rains in the spring might be the culprit, but we have not had any heavy rains. Dawson stated that he believes that water temperature has a lot to do with it. The spores are sitting at the bottom of the water and are in place year around. During the winter the spores are dormant. In the spring when the water warms up they become active. Dawson said it seems to be getting worse with the toxin count and length of time every year. Don asked if the influx of nitrogen has an affect also. Dawson believes that it does. It's a food supply for the spores. Don thinks that if there is a link with nitrogen, the town should ban or control fertilizers being used near the water. Mark Matheson asked if the sea clam's and sea scallop's fishery has been affected by the red tide. Dawson stated that those are off shore animals and have not been affected. Cape Cod Bay and Pleasant Bay are red tide free as of now.

Dawson stated that the work on the ramps and piers is going slower than expected. The coffer dam is in place on the ramp at the town cove and should be done shortly. The River Road pier project is under way. The posts for the piers are being set. Once that is done the pier at Meeting House Pond will start.

Tim asked if the new launch ramp at the Town Cove will be larger than the old one. Dawson stated that the State says the new ramps have to keep the same footprint as the old ones. The pitch of the ramp will be a bit steeper on the new one. Cecil asked if all three projects are supposed to be completed by the 21<sup>st</sup> of May. Dawson's reply was "yes". A penalty is in place if the contract goes beyond the completion date.

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Dawson stated that the new mooring permits have been issued. Out of 1,300 mooring permits, only 24 have been relinquished.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Judy mentioned that she took pictures of the sink hole on the road above the entry way at Lonnie's Pond. She sent the pictures to the proper authorities and complained that it was a safety issue and should be fixed.

The herring count started April 1<sup>st</sup> and, as of last week, 178 herring have been counted at the official count site. This is an increase over the total count last year. The elvers are running again and one minute per counting period has been added to count the eels. Brad Chase sent some material for the eel ladder to Judy and Scott Johnson has attached it to the pen boards. Judy stated that the material is not working out too well. Hopefully they will work the kinks out. Brad Chase is sending people down to the run to do a study to come up with plans for an eel ladder for next year's count.

Bill mentioned to Judy that there will be a herring counters "get-together" at the beginning of June to thank people for their hard work. The event will be held at Simeon's house at the count site.

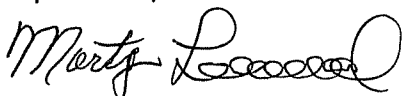
#### NEW BUSINESS:

Committee terms are up for Tim, Cecil and Marty. They will NOT be signing up for another term. Don would like to see some younger people join our committee.

Judy mentioned that Hillary Nichols is a scientist at the US Geological Survey and she has been doing eel grass monitoring in Pleasant Bay off of Hog Island. She is interested in what type of gear is used for scalloping in the Bay and if the gear is damaging the eel grass. Dawson stated that he will e-mail her on what type of gear is used in Pleasant Bay. She is wondering if the small area that she monitors can be restricted from scalloping in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM. The next meeting will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> in the Skaket Room at 7:00 PM. Please bring agenda and minutes and notify the chair if you cannot attend.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marty Leonard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marty Leonard