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Water Quality Task Force
Minutes, September 20, 2010

10 NOV 2010
PH 1:30
TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
Ken
J. Kennedy, ASST

Attending Members: Carolyn Kennedy, Judy Scanlon, Gilbert Merritt, Bob Royce, Jack (Bugs) Moran, Ken

Meeting called to order by Chair Carolyn Kennedy at 10:05 am.

1) **Minutes** of the July 19 Meeting were approved as corrected. 4-0-2

2) **Summer Estuary Sampling:** Completed. All but one kit has been cleaned and returned to Chatham. Most 2010 samplers have volunteered to continue sampling in 2011 but we always need new volunteers when the season starts. Several marker buoys, most notably Lonnie's Pond and Town Cove moved during the season. Are better anchors needed? Carolyn to follow up with George.

3) **PALS (Pond and Lake Stewards) Sampling:** Twenty ponds have been done with two more to be done. Samples will go to SMAST for this Cape wide effort cosponsored by Cape Cod Commission.

4) **USGS Namskaket Sampling:** The sampling plan is still 2x per month with USGS doing one and the OWQTF doing the other. Sampling has been completed through September and dates are needed from USGS for the next several months. Tentatively we have scheduled; October: Gilbert and Carolyn, November: Gilbert and Bugs, December: Gilbert and Ken

5) **Cedar Pond Management Plan:** Because there have been no responses to the Orleans BOS letters to MassDEP, MassDOT and NSTAR asking for cooperation on a reduction of nutrients entering Cedar Pond, there is a need for leadership in getting a Cedar Pond management plan developed. After much discussion, Judy Scanlon proposed that: "The Orleans Water Quality Task Force move forward to facilitate a technical meeting to determine the best option available to Orleans in managing Cedar Pond". The motion was passed 6-0-0. The meeting should include all interested parties including SMAST, MassDEP, MassDOT, NSTAR, Applied Coastal, Orleans Board of Health, Planning Office, Highway Department, Shellfish and Waterways Committee and should utilize all available resources such as the Applied Coastal report on Rock Harbor, the SMAST Report of 2009, MEP report section on Rock Harbor and the CWMP Orleans section. It appears that the two major options involve either maintaining Cedar Pond as an estuarine environment (14-20 ppt salinity) or returning it to the near history fresh/brackish environment (~6ppt salinity).

6) **New Business:**

- a) Keith Brunell reported to Carolyn that he found two invasive plant species near the dam in Pilgrim Lake. He removed all he could see and Carolyn brought samples to show the Task Force. Judy identified them as Water Hyacinth and Water Lettuce. She said that were common water garden plants are sold locally. They do not normally survive the winters on Cape Cod. Judy will explore the possibility of a Cape Codder article on the dangers of introducing invasive species to our waters and will take samples to the BOS meeting this week for Show and Tell.
- b) The Town Managers office has asked Carolyn to help update the information on Task Force members' initial dates of service and their current terms.
- c) Carolyn announced that there will be an Orientation meeting for new town committee members and officers at 6:30 pm September 27.
- d) The Orleans Pond Coalition will hold "Celebrate our Waters" on Columbus Day Weekend. Notification has been sent to all Orleans households and Coalition members.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am. 6-0-0

Respectfully submitted.
Gilbert Merritt

Approved 6-0-0
Gilbert Merritt
10/18