

Marine and Fresh Water Quality Task Force
Minutes, Sept 17, 2012
Town Hall, Skaket Room

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK
'12 OCT 15 3:39PM
C. Maef

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

Guest: Charles Harris, Eastham

Chair Carolyn Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:05 am

1) August Meeting Minutes: Approved 6-0-1.

2) PALS Sampling 2012: Late summer freshwater pond sampling has been completed. Water levels were unusually low with Boland Pond down approximately 18" with no cold, deep spot detected. Kettle Pond had no water in it. Sarah's Pond and Uncle Harvey's Pond both had confirmed blooms of cyanobacteria.

3) 2012 Estuary Sampling: Was completed 9/6. 48 volunteers collected a total of over 500 samples over the summer. Lab cleanup is planned for tomorrow afternoon. Carolyn presented a preliminary analysis of the temperature and DO (Dissolved Oxygen) data compared with 7/6/2011. 2012 temperatures were generally higher than 2011 and 64% of the DO's were less than 5mg/L, a very unacceptable oxygen reading.

4) Cedar Pond: SMAST study is underway. Judy Scanlon is continuing to liaise with SMAST. Carolyn is meeting with USDA about the cormorants roosting on the NSTAR wires over the pond and their economic impact. She hopes to conduct a tour for USDA scientist one evening soon when the cormorants are roosting. We have still had no response from NSTAR to the Town's request to find a solution to the roost problem.

5) Mill Pond: The "Chinese Hat" installed in Mill Pond failed to indicate any presence of oyster spat. The presence of spat (juvenile oysters) would signal that the oysters were reproducing. There is some question if the test was run too late in the season so the test was inconclusive. It will probably be re-run in 2013 earlier in the season. The experiment was run by the Shellfish and Waterways Committee and reported on to us by Judy Scanlon.

6) Pleasant Bay: Recent measurements of the tidal range in Pleasant Bay by Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies have shown that the range has declined from high numbers measured in 2010 after the new opening formed into the Atlantic in 2007. (Report is available on the Pleasant Bay Alliance web site www.pleasantbay.org) Movement of sand around the new opening seems to have restricted the flow enough that the tidal range is back closer to the pre-breach range. This seems to indicate that the post breach possibilities of better flushing and improved water quality have not been sustained.

7) Stormwater Outfalls and Drainage Assessment: Mark Budnick and GHD consultants have proposed a study of existing outfalls and drainages and their impact on nitrogen loading in surface waters. Mark had to be out of town so his draft proposal was given to the Task Force by Carolyn. Discussion was tabled until Mark could meet with us at a special meeting, to be called.

8) Committee Orientation Meeting: A meeting has been called on Monday Sep. 24 at 7 pm for all new committee members and committee chairs. Conflict of Interest Law will be discussed as well as other legal topics pertaining to town boards and committees.

9) Election of Task Force Officers for FY 2013: Carolyn Kennedy, Chair 7-0-0; Judy Scanlon, Vice Chair; 7-0-0; Gilbert Merritt; Clerk 7-0-0.

10) Next Meeting: Special Meeting to be called. Next regular meeting will be October 15.

11) Meeting adjourned: 11:10 am

Respectfully submitted:

Gilbert Merritt

Meeting dates for the rest of 2012. Oct 15 Nov 19 Dec 17

Approved 7-0-0
GLM
10/15/12