

Marine and Fresh Water Quality Task Force
Minutes, Oct. 15, 2012
Orleans Town Hall, Skaket Room

'12 NOV 19 11:54AM
K. Derry Assl
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

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

Guests: Charles Harris, Eastham; Judy Hunt, Orleans

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

- 1) **September Meeting Minutes:** September 17 Regular Meeting minutes approved as revised: 7-0-0.
September 25 Special Meeting minutes approved as revised: 5-0-2.
- 2) **Cedar Pond:** Carolyn and Judy Scanlon met with USDA representatives and toured Cedar Pond to see the cormorant roost. George Meservey and Judy S had a subsequent meeting with USDA representatives and discussed their experience in the southeastern US with cormorant problems at fish farms. USDA expressed some interest in a spring experiment at Cedar Pond. USDA is the federal agency tasked with wildlife issues that have a negative economic impact. The Task Force discussed various economic impacts of the cormorant roost. Most obvious is the nitrogen and phosphorus loading contributed by the bird droppings which degrades the water quality impacting the native herring, white perch and eels. The resulting poor water quality reduces the ponds' desirability for human contact and thus reduces home values for abutting properties. High nitrate and phosphate loads in Cedar Pond may also increase those concentrations in Rock Harbor Creek and Rock Harbor consequently degrading their water quality. The current SMAST study should quantify this.
- 3) **Projects for 2013:**
 - a. Develop a data presentation format that will allow all the Orleans citizens access to the historical water quality collected by town volunteers.
 - b. Continue to reduce surface storm water runoff from public roads to our ponds and streams. Support and advise Mark Budnick in his continuing efforts to these ends.
 - c. Encourage better private property control of surface runoff to conform to existing Town bylaws.
- 4) **Eastham Alum Treatment:** Treatment of Herring Pond was delayed due to some confusing pH measurements. More data is to be gathered before a new date for treatment is set. Charles will keep us updated.
- 5) **Next Meeting:** Next Meeting November 19.
- 6) **Meeting adjourned:** 11:00 am

Respectfully submitted:

Gilbert Merritt

Meeting dates for the rest of 2012: Nov 19, Dec 17

Approved 6-0-0
11/19/12