

ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, April 14, 2009

TOWN OF ORLEANS  
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE  
09 MAY 11 AM 11:18

Attendance: Tim Linkkila (Chairman), Cecil Newcomb, Dave Dunford (Selectman Liaison), Marty Leonard, Judy Scanlon, Joe Silva, Bill Mitchell, Jay Harrington, Jack Moran.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Dave Dunford believes that the town meeting will be only one night and that we will be able to have our meeting as scheduled. Dawson's article on the temporary mooring permits will be on the agenda. On the capital plan, is bonding for funds to replace the piers at River Road Landing and Meeting House Pond, and also to redo the landing at the Town Cove ramp. Dave mentioned that this year's budget is a tight one with no overrides.

#### CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Lara Slifka handed out some literature for us to check out at the meeting. The literature shows that there was a large by-catch of river herring off the coast of Cape Cod in February, November and December. Thousands of pounds of herring were caught at each tow. Lara is going to attend a meeting in May that might result in some changes that will close some areas to protect the herring

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Cecil said that he has visited many groups and organizations asking for donations for the monofilament recycling program that we would like to implement. No one has funds to give out at this time. The project will cost about \$2,000 to set in place. Judy said she will approach the Orleans Conservation Trust which Bob Prescott of the Audubon Society is a member of. There will be about 25 locations for the containers. Cecil stated that each unit which is made of 6" PVC would cost about \$35. Lara said that the Hook Fishermen's Organization would sponsor the program. The checks or money would go to them and they in turn would give it to us for the project.

Jay was concerned about the legality of the project. Has permission to place

these units at the town landings been granted?

Tim said he would talk to Dawson to see if he has a plan in place for approval of the project.

Judy believes that the committee as a group should approach the selectmen for approval.

Bill stated that there are 62 counters in place for the herring run count. With spouses and alternates there are 75 counters. The herring arrived 3 days later than last year. The first fish was seen on April 7, 2009. A large group of fish came in on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The temperature of the water was 10 degrees centigrade. Twelve fish have been counted by the team at this time. Bill mentioned that three otters have been spotted in Pilgrim Lake and were eating fish. No elvers have been seen as yet.

Jay read an article at the meeting from the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Commission report. They want to extend the river herring moratorium for another three years. They say that there is some improvement in the fish stocks. They believe that the herring sieners are not the main culprit of the depletion of river herring. They believe that predators such as striped bass, dog fish, seals and cormorants are the largest harvesters. They also want to keep the sieners by-catch at five percent.

Bill brought in a copy of "Sanctuary", a magazine that is put out by the Audubon Society. He said the spring issue gives a lot of information on migratory fish including the river herring and eels. It is a very informative publication.

Judy mentioned that the water flow at Cedar Pond through the culvert was very strong when she was there. The clearing of sand and weeds seemed to have helped. It will be even better when the new culvert is put in. Lara said a new feasibility study is going to be done on the Rock Harbor marsh and Cedar Pond run. This may be a step towards funding for improvements to the run.


## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Tim stated that the terms of three members are expiring. Judy, Joe, and Jay were asked if they are going to stay with the Committee. Joe will be leaving, Judy

will stay aboard, and Jay will let us know at the next meeting on his decision. If any of the members know of anyone who is interested in joining our group there will be an opening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM. The next meeting will be held on May 12<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 black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Marty Leonard