

ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Attendance: Tim Linkkila (Chairman), Dave Dunford (Selectman Liaison), Dawson Farber (Harbor Master), Marty Leonard (Secretary), Cecil Newcomb, Don Bakker, Judy Scanlon, Bill Mitchell, Jay Harrington, Jack Moran.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Lara Slifka attended another meeting of the Atlantic Marine Fisheries in Alexandria, VA. This time they developed a plan for protecting the river herring. They determined what a sustainable fishery means. It means that there is no impact on the current population. It will not impact the fish that are returning to spawn. What they said is that you can have a fishery open if it is sustainable. In Massachusetts it does not matter anyway because we have a moratorium on catching river herring. With the monitoring program that is in place the state will know if the river herring are sustainable. The Secretary of Commerce now can stop the taking of river herring at sea thru an emergency action plan. This is done by increasing the number of people on the monitoring team that board the vessels at sea.

DAVE DUNFORD:

Dave urged everyone at the meeting to attend the Town Meeting tomorrow night and to spread the word to friends also. The first night of the meeting was adjourned three quarters of the way through because when a count was taken there were not enough people to make a quorum of 270. Dave mentioned that the agricultural task force was passed and will be set in place. Aquiculture will be included in this commission.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT:

Dawson stated that the pier reconstruction project at River Road Landing and Meeting House Pond were approved at the town meeting. The repairs for the town cove ramp was approved also. Dawson said that a long term lease proposal is in the works on the launch area behind the Goose Hummock. The bulkhead to the left of the ramp is failing and it will be very costly to repair. The area behind Goose Hummock and next to the Orleans Inn has been used as a winter storage for boats

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for many seasons. In the summer it is used for public parking. It was voted by the selectmen to prevent storage of boats on the Town owned property.

The Nauset Estuary is shut down for shell fishing because of the red tide. The bloom started in Roberts Cove and spread to the Town Cove and Salt Pond in Eastham. Dawson stated that the commercial fishermen do take a hit from the red tide. The shellfish beds are undisturbed during this period and the shellfish are spawning at this time so the beds can benefit from this. Dawson's crew has been planting oysters on the north side of Sampson's Island. These oysters came from Meeting House Pond where they had wintered over. They planted some at Namaquid Point and Sargent's Point.

The oysters in Mill Pond are doing great and there may or may not be a harvesting season this fall. If it does happen there will be a ten quart limit per person per week. That pertains to family permit and commercial permit holders alike. Jay read an article about oyster farming in Orleans years ago. Rafts were taken to Martha's Vinyard to catch oyster seeds and brought back to Orleans and placed in certain areas. The last wild oysters Jay had seen was in the 1970's.

Don Bakker thought that a stimulus package to attract tourists to Orleans may be beneficial to the town. It would include a license for a week or a weekend for an oyster harvest. Dawson stated that it might happen in a few years but we don't have the resources now.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lara stated that the Orleans Pond Coalition would sponsor funds for about 12 containers for the monofilament recycling program. A vote was taken by the committee to accept the offer and put into place 12 containers at various town landings. Everyone was in favor and the vote passed unanimously. Dawson said he and his men will maintain the containers. The location of the containers were discussed by the committee. The Pond Coalition gave us a list of where they would like to place the containers. The list follows:

Town landing at Town Cove
Goose Hummock
Mill Pond
Rock Harbor Creek - 3
Meetinghouse at the bend in the river
Town landing off Poachett
Pilgrim Lake

Crystal Lake (Monument Road)
Nauset Beach - 2 entrances

Dawson will send a note to the town administrator and will be passed on to the selectmen to approve our project.

Bill thanked Lara for the work she has done to help us out on our project. He mentioned to Tim that we should send a letter of thanks to the Orleans Pond Coalition for funding the project. Bill thought that a press photographer should be there when the first container is placed in the ground. It will be good publicity for our committee and the Orleans Pond Coalition.

NEW BUSINESS:

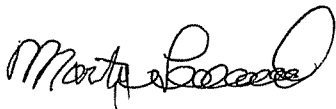
Bill reported that he is still getting the figures together on the herring count. There were 369 herring unofficially counted in the month of April. On April 22nd a large school of fish came in and 135 fish entered Pilgrim Lake in one hour. The glass eels started arriving in the run on April 18th. The highest rate seen was 6,000 per hour on the 25th of April.

Lara mentioned that extra funding for repairs on the Pilgrim run could possibly be obtained through the Fish America Foundation. They will match funds up to a certain amount. The repairs that have been already funded will start in August.

Jay will not be signing up for another term. He has been a long time member and will be missed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. The next meeting will be held on June 9th 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 black ink, appearing to read "Marty Leonard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marty" being more prominent than the last name "Leonard".

Marty Leonard