

ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, September 8, 2009

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TOWN OF ORLEANS  
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE



Attendance: Tim Linkkila (Chairman), Dawson Farber (Harbor Master), Cecil Newcomb, Marty Leonard, Judy Scanlon, Bill Mitchell, Mark Matheson.

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

Tim acknowledged our two new members, Mark Matheson and David Slack. David could not attend the meeting. Mark introduced himself to the committee. Mark is a teacher at Nauset High School. He and his family spend a lot of time shell fishing, fin fishing, boating and hiking along our wet lands and waterways.

#### HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT:

Dawson has secured an engineer to design the piers that are going to be replaced at the landings at River Road and Barley Neck Road. The piers are going to be made of aluminum instead of pressure treated wood. They will last longer than wood and are more environmentally friendly.

Dawson stated that the soft shelled clam catch was down this summer and there were a lot of seed clams present so maybe next year will be better. There was a large set of juvenile mussels on the flats next to Hopkins Island but because of the exposure at low tide during the hot spell we had, the majority of them died. Dawson said that the quahog harvest was great. There has been plenty of little necks, cherry stones, and chowders all thru the Nauset estuary. The price paid to the commercial harvesters was down this year compared to other years.

Dawson stated that there was a large amount of kayakers in Pleasant Bay and the Nauset Estuary this year. He and his crew had lots calls about people being swamped or getting lost.

The oyster sets in Mill Pond are still doing very well. The area is still closed for harvesting. Bill is in favor of keeping the area closed until we can see if the oysters are propagating. We may not get any more seed oysters if the state makes more cuts in aquiculture spending.

Judy noticed the large oyster sets in Salt Pond in Eastham. It is a town operated program. The oysters are raised in the pond and are disbursed in the river for harvest.

Dawson reported that the oyster sets that were placed out on the north side of Samson's Island in Pleasant Bay are doing great. Another set that was placed in the northeastern side of Namoquoit Point did not survive due to either a soft bottom or predators.

At Lonnies and Pilgrim Lake herring run an extension to the fish run will be under construction soon. The work will be at the base of the run from the basin out to Lonnies Pond. The extension will be 30' to 40' long with a step system to provide enough water to hold fish at low tide. Work will also be done to the culvert going under the road.

A study will be done on the Cedar Pond run on weather to increase the tidal flow of salt water or leave it as a fresh water pond.

Much to Dawson's dismay, the Cape Cod Times listed Rock Harbor as one of the top five beaches to visit with free parking, portable toilets, etc.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Cecil reported that the monofilament recycling containers have been a success, although some people are using them as trash cans, mostly for soda bottles and cans. The three containers that Dawson placed at Rock Harbor had to be taken away because of drug paraphernalia that was being deposited in them. They will be placed down on the docks next year. Hopefully, it will work out better. All the discarded line goes to the Goose Hummock where they store it for recycling.

Bill stated that the herring count program may be better run by the Pond Coalition Committee. The project is very time consuming and maybe they can handle it better than us. They may come up with more people for better coverage. Bill stated that he will help run the program one more year if he has to.

Mark stated that some students have to volunteer for community service work to graduate. They may fit in as counters for the program.

Cecil mentioned that in September some silver eels will head out of the fresh water ponds to migrate to the Sagarso Sea. If one did a vigil at the Pilgrim run in the evening, they might see some. Some herring should be leaving also.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Tim mentioned that Alan Chase, who is the chairman of the Agricultural Committee, will attend out next meeting to inform us about his new committee and the ties it has with aquiculture.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM. The next meeting will be held on October 13<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, appearing to read "Marty Leonard".

Marty Leonard