

ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, October 12, 2009

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TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
Delvin P. P.

Attendance: Tim Linkkila (Chairman), Cecil Newcomb (Vice Chairman), Dave Dunford (Selectman Liaison), Marty Leonard, Don Bakker, Bill Mitchell, Jack Moran, David Slack, Mark Matheson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted with one correction. Bill clarified that any committee or group could take over the herring run count, not just the Pond Coalition Committee.

Dawson could not attend the meeting so there was no Harbor Master's report.

Tim introduced and welcomed Dave Slack to the committee. Dave is a commercial shell fisherman and runs an Oyster Grant in Pleasant Bay. When he is not shell fishing, he is a tile installer. He joined the committee because he is concerned about the health of our shellfish and waterways.

Jay Harrington, who retired recently from our committee after many years of service to the town, was awarded a gift certificate to the Goose Hummock Sport Shop. Jay was always there to verify facts on shellfishing, both historically and current up to date information. We will miss him as a member of this committee.

DAVE DUNFORD, SELECTMAN'S REPORT:

Dave mentioned that the town is in a \$700,000 deficit position. Things are tight and payrolls have been frozen in many positions. Perhaps our committee will try again to raise certain fees to help offset this problem. Dave said that it is not just the town that is in trouble, but the State itself is in big trouble financially. There will be cuts in spending everywhere. There is a possibility that there will be cuts in the shellfish seeding program. There might not be any state funding. Jack asked Dave if he knew how much revenue we lost over the past two years on people not buying beach stickers. Dave believes that about \$200,000 was lost. People are not buying new cars due to the economy and the town lost another couple hundred thousand in excise taxes.

Bill Mitchell asked Dave if he knew what is being done to open up South Beach to travel so the town and it's residents can benefit both financially and recreationally.

Dave said that the state, and not the Federal Government, is responsible for the closure. Bill thinks that something should be done to relieve the problem.

Dawson told Tim that the prospects he mentioned at the previous meeting are under way. He also mentioned that scallops are showing up in both Pleasant Bay and the Nauset Estuary. Dave Slack mentioned that he heard that Chatham is going to have a great scallop harvest.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bill mentioned that he would like to have a get together with the herring counters like we had last year. He and Judy are going to talk it over and see what can be done.

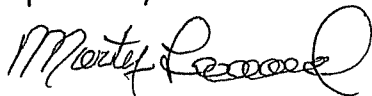
NEW BUSINESS:

Alan Chace presented the charge that the selectmen gave him for the new Agricultural Task Force Committee that Alan is heading up. He was here to explain how his committee will operate and the ties it has with aquaculture. Alan mentioned that there is an increase in local farming. People want to buy local produce. This is happening all over the country. He wants to make sure that there will always be land available for farming. Alan mentioned that many small farmers are bringing their goods to the Farmer's Market in Orleans on Old Colony Way. It has become so popular that the season was extended this year, which is an example of its growth and public interest. Alan hopes to be up and running by the first of the year.

Bill and Jack are planning on meeting with Paul Fultcher and reporting their findings on the beach closure next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting will be held on November 3rd 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