

TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
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ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Attendance: Tim Linkkila (Chairman), Cecil Newcomb (Vice Chairman), Dawson Farber (Harbor Master), Marty Leonard, Don Bakker, David Slack.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. No one received the minutes of the last meeting. "Computer glitch". Sorry about that. I'll try again.

David Dunford could not attend the meeting so there was no selectman's report.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Scott Johnson gave us his report on how the herring run fared this past year. Scott thought that last year, starting in April, was a good year as far as the amount of herring that entered the run. He observed heavy concentrations in the late afternoon and evenings during the high tide period. Because of the high water level in the lake, Scott did not have to regulate the pen boards at the outlet. The water ran freely for almost a month. Scott wanted to touch base with Judy about the elvers entering the lake. He mentioned that he could drill a hole in one of the pen boards so they can gain access to the lake. It would have to be a small hole because he doesn't want too much water draining thru. Scott stated that there is only one small spring in the lake and that is near Monument Road. The lake is fairly shallow and has to be constantly watched and regulated as needed. Scott stated that he believes that there were more herring in the run last year than the year before. He checked many times after the counters left their watch to find that many fish were passing by. He also stated that during the low tide periods not a single fish would pass by. Scott also mentioned that the work at the entrance of the run at Lonnie's Pond that was funded by the Hook Fisherman's Association has come to a halt. The contractor who was to build the additional steps had a conflict with the State which now involved an engineer with many pages of documents that have to be aired out before work starts again. Dawson is hoping to get this done before April. Dawson stated that if work on the run were to be done under the original plan which was having the Conservation Commission, abutting land owners permission, Division of Marine Fisheries involvement, the cost of the repairs would be down 80% compared to the involvement of the N.R.C.S. Don stated that two years ago when we were in the planning stages of the herring count program that he had reservations about the project. The team results say the count is down by 30% but the keeper of the run said he thought the count was up compared to last year.

Don believes Scott because he lives there next to the run and has more time to observe the area.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT: Dawson stated that the Conservation Commission approved the replacements of the piers at Meeting House Pond, River Road, and the Cove Road landings. The project is out for bid and the work should start in March. Work on the ramps will be done also if money is available.

Dawson stated that the scallop harvest is waning down. Harvest time went from twenty minutes to get a bushel to four or five hours to do so now. Dave noticed some juvenile scallop spat in the oyster beds. We may have another scallop season next year. The last time we had a banner year of scallops was about fifteen years ago.

Dawson stated that the renewal of license and mooring fees are under way. He also said that the old Loran System for navigation is being phased out. Everyone is updating to G.P.S.

Cecil asked Dawson if he knew who was in charge of cleaning up the landing ramps after a big tidal surge. Dawson stated that the water department has a person who operates a bucket loader to do the clean up.

Tim asked how much money is being funded for shell fish propagation this year. Dawson said he has asked for \$18,000. The money allotted is for purchasing seed quahogs and oysters. Dave asked if money could be allotted for scallops. Dawson stated that he will not try seeding scallops. In the past he has had terrible results in doing so.

Dawson saw some interesting photos of an elver ramp that was constructed with plywood and 2 x 4's in Pocasset. It looked like a simple project. Scott said he would be willing to help with the project.

Dave thinks that some grants should be given out to some young blood if they are interested. It would help keep the grant system alive. There are some grants that are not being used right now. Dawson said a new oyster grant was issued for Cape Cod Bay this year.

Don heard that there is going to be a recreational salt water fishing license

program for the State of Massachusetts. Dawson stated that it has passed and will be enforced by the Environmental Police at some point. This year the licenses are free. A person can register on line with the Federal Fisheries and Wildlife.

Cecil stated that the Pond Collation has come up with money for two more monofilament recycling units.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 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". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Marty Leonard