

ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, March 9, 2010

TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
10 APR - 8 AM 10:59

Attendance: Tim Linkkila (Chairman), Dawson Farber (Harbor Master), Marty Leonard, Bill Mitchell, Mark Matheson, David Slack.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted with one amendment. It was Dave not Mark who inquired about Alan Chase's project on Agriculture.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Scott Johnson was present and was here to ask for help for the annual Spring clean up of the Lonnie's Pond, Pilgrim Lake herring run. Because of the construction going on at the head of the run, Scott does not know at this time when he can open the dam at the Lake. Scott informed the construction crew that April 1st would be the deadline. Scott intends to have the clean up on the last weekend of March. The clean up will be on Saturday, March 27th at 8:00 AM. Bill mentioned that a gravel rake is very effective for removing leaves and debris from the run. If any one can get their hands on one, please bring it.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT:

Dawson stated that Robert Our, who is the contractor that is doing the work on the herring run, will start tomorrow on Wednesday, March 10th. They will be setting the forms and rebar in place and de-watering the area with a dam and pumps. The project should take about two weeks.

The bid was awarded for the replacement of the piers. The work should start at the beginning of next week. That work is being done at the River Road Landing, Meeting House Pond Landing and the Town Cove Landing next to the yacht club. The bid came in at \$14,000 under the cap. The company is Hugo Key out of Newport, RI. Dawson stated that the completion date is May 31st. The piers will be two feet higher because of the higher tides we have been experiencing lately.

The launch ramp at the Town Cove will have a steeper grade to it which will make it easier for launching at half tides and lower. It will be a coffer dammed poured in place ramp.

Dawson stated that the channel markers for the Nauset estuary and Pleasant Bay will be in place shortly.

Dave asked Dawson about dredging certain areas of Pleasant Bay. Dawson stated that may be an issue at the Town meeting but his feelings are that it is a costly project and what do you do with the spoils and how will it affect the water quality.

Bill asked Dawson about the water quality of Mill Pond. Bill heard from someone that the Mill Pond is a dead body of water. Tim stated that he was involved on water testing there and there was a dead zone in the deepest area. Tim stated that most of the water including the shallow areas tested fine.

Dave mentioned to Dawson that he thinks extending the channel buoys from Sampson's Island to Pochet Flats is a waste of time and buoys. Not many people travel that far off the beaten path.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bill will have a meeting with the team captains to prepare for this year's herring count. Bill mentioned that the eel count was much more sufficient in the numbers compared to the herring. Bill estimated that 38,000 eels passed through the run during the counting period.

As of now, there are 85 counters that said they would volunteer this year. Bill thinks we will need 10 or 15 new counters to add to the list. The count will start April 1st.

Bill mentioned that the Annual Cape Cod Natural History Conference will take place April 15, 2010 at the four C's campus. Many speakers will be there including Dr. JoAnne Muramoto to talk about the herring fishery and count.

Tim asked Bill if anyone on the counting team has lost interest in the project. He also wanted to know how many years the study is projected for. Bill said he has lost a few counters due to age or people moving, but most are eager to do the count again and has a backup team to fill in if someone cannot be there for their watch period. There are many groups such as the Pond Coalition and the Hook Fisherman's Association to recruit volunteers from. The herring counts have been going on in other areas for a few years now. Bill stated that our team is new and

as long as there is interest the count could go on for many years. Bill stated that this will be his last year of heading the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

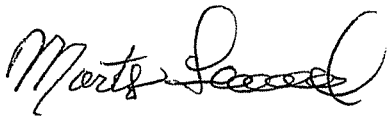
Tim was wondering if any one has heard any more about the solar powered eel ladder that Judy asked about. Bill heard that the Town of Harwich has some sort of eel ladder in play on one of their runs. Scott Johnson questioned if there was really a need for an eel ladder. They seem to be doing fine on their own for years. He mentioned that he could bore a hole in one of the lower pen boards at the outlet. That should help out quite a bit.

Tim was at the Selectman's meeting when Alan Chase gave his summary report on the agriculture committee project. The selectmen recommend that project to be termed as a commission and not a committee. Alan thinks that shell fish and waterways committee should be part of the agricultural committee because of the aquacultural aspect. Dave thinks that it should be a separate committee or commission. He thinks it is an entirely different entity.

Bill asked Dawson if there is going to be any quahog propagation this spring. Dawson stated that the funds for propagation were depleted last fall. Dawson said that Barnstable County may help us out with more Oyster bags for seeding. Dawson stated that the soft shell clam fishery is going to be very lean for Nauset Harbor this year, although the quahog fishery is still pretty good.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM. The next meeting will be held on April 13th 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