

ORLEANS SHELLFISH & WATERWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, April 12, 2010

10 MAY - 7 PM 3:14
TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE
K. M. W. ASST.

Attendance: Tim Linkkila (Chairman), Cecil Newcomb (Vice Chairman), Dave Dunford (Selectman Liaison), Dawson Farber (Harbor Master), Marty Leonard, Judy Scanlon, Bill Mitchell, Mark Matheson, and David Slack.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted with one amendment. Mark was the one that asked Dawson about dredging in Pleasant Bay not Dave.

Dave Dunford said in reviewing the agenda for the town meeting that the Shellfish and Waterways Committee does not have any articles to submit. Dave asked that everyone on our committee attend the town meeting on Monday, May 10th at 6:30 PM. Cecil mentioned to Dave that a citizen of Orleans approached him and said that he thinks that the Goose Hummock business is infringing on Town property. According to the citizen, the kayak operation is on Town property. Dawson stated that he knows of this problem and said that it was a misinterpretation of the citizen and that the situation has been appeased by a member of Ryder and Wilcox after reviewing the new plans for boundaries. Dave Dunford stated that a lease was in place with the owner of Goose Hummock for usage on that small parcel of land. They have to maintain the property as well.

HARBOR MASTER'S REPORT:

Dawson stated that the work on the piers at Meeting House Pond, River Road Landing and the Town Cove is under way. The work has a deadline of May 21st. The Town Cove ramp at the yacht club will be shut down for a period of two weeks and the alternative ramp will be behind Goose Hummock. There is plenty of parking there so it should not be much of a problem.

Dawson stated that there is a red tide in effect at the Nauset estuary. It involves the area from Weesit Point to Tonset Landing and out towards the inlet. The closure is for mussels only. Dawson predicts a full closure of Nauset estuary within a week or two if it follows the trend of the past few years. It is starting early this year. Dawson stated that the closure will be beneficial to the soft shell clam areas there.

Bill asked about the oyster project at Mill Pond. Dawson stated that they are still growing and are healthy. The area is still closed for harvesting. There will be more seeding of oysters in June or July in different areas if Barnstable County provides us with funding to do so. Bill asked Dawson if he plans on a harvesting period at Mill Pond. Dawson stated that maybe in the fall, there will be one.

Dave Slack mentioned that in the Nauset estuary and Pleasant Bay estuary there have been no spat or juvenile oysters found in years. He thinks maybe the salinity in those areas is too high.

Dawson stated that 18 people have relinquished their mooring permits. There are 370 people on the waiting list.

Dawson had good news. He submitted an application with the State for a reimbursement grant for the work he is doing on the piers. The cost for the work on those landings was \$300,000. Dawson heard that the State gave the town \$143,000. The funding is coming out of the Department of Conservation and Recreation. There are certain conditions that come along with it. The facilities have to be made available to the public with no discrimination based on residency. Also, if there are to be any fees for use of the facility, the fee will be the same for residents and nonresidents. Dawson stated that fees for usage of the piers and ramps have been brought up before but policing and collecting are a full time job and not worth the time and effort for such small facilities. Judy thought the committee should vote on whether or not to accept the grant money from the State for the work on the landings. A vote was taken and the majority of the committee voted in favor of accepting the grant money.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bill mentioned that the herring run clean up went well. There was a good turnout. Bill said we need a follow up raking of leaves. He thinks that 10 or 12 people for about an hour should do the trick. The cleaning will be done at the counting area.

Judy mentioned that Brad Chase from the Division of Marine Fisheries met with her to check on the work done at the beginning of the herring run. Judy also discussed with him about the possibility of placing an eel ladder at the dam at Pilgrim Lake. Scott Johnson was there along with Bill Mitchell and Dr. JoAnne Muramoto. Brad has a special material that can be attached to the pen boards

that would allow the eels to climb up to the next pen board that is above the water line which will be raised to allow the eels to enter the lake. Brad will work on a couple of designs for the future.

Judy noticed a number of herring milling around the outlet pipe of Jim Bass's cranberry bog. The pipe goes under Monument Road. The water in the run is measuring 4 to 5 degrees higher this year than last year at this time. JoAnne Muramoto has placed a data logger in the run just below the counting area. The first herring was observed by Bill on April 4th. There was just the skin and tail left after an Otter feasted on the rest. April 8th was the first documented herring at the counting site. Twenty one herring were counted on that day. One elver was recorded on April 10th.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Cape Cod National History Conference went off as scheduled. Judy mentioned that she went and it was very informative. Brad Chase gave a talk on eel ladders. There were many interesting speakers and topics.

Dawson stated that the road or small bridge at the entrance of the Herring area where the extension to the run was done is in rough shape. There is sink hole at the outside edge of the road and structural cracks underneath the roadway. The highway department has been informed.

Cecil mentioned that on April 18th there will be a meeting at the Audubon Society in Wellfleet. The subject matter is about horseshoe crabs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM. The next meeting will be held on May 11th 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", with a stylized, cursive script.

Marty Leonard