

K. DeLuca, Asst
'11 NOV 15 3:53PM**Orleans Shellfish & Waterways Improvement Advisory Committee**

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, October 11, 2011

In attendance: Rich Tyldesley (Chair), Mark Mathison (Vice-chair), Judy Scanlon, Jack Moran, Howard Steilin, Don Bakker, David Slack, Dave Dunsford (Selectmen Liaison), Dawson Farber (Shellfish Constable & Harbormaster), Judith Bruce (Guest, Pleasant Bay Management Alliance)

The meeting was brought to order by Rich at 7:03 PM.

New member Howard Steilin was introduced. He summarized his background. For Howard's benefit, existing members introduced themselves and also recited background.

Harbormaster's report:

1. Dawson brought up the shoaling issue in Pleasant Bay in the channel between Minister's Pt. and the golf course. He said under current A.C.E.C. regulations, the channel could not be dredged because it would be Improvement dredging as opposed to Maintenance dredging. He introduced Judith Bruce, the Steering Committee's representative in the Pleasant Bay Alliance. She elaborated by describing their activities in connection with potentially dredging the channel to the South and West of Strong Island in Chatham. Last year the channel nearly became impassable at low water and the Committee wishes to be proactive in the event of recurrence. Judith outlined the regulations regarding dredging in an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (A.C.E.C.). Maintenance dredging which is dredging in an area previously dredged is allowed. Improvement dredging which is proposed dredging in an area not previously dredged is not. The Committee is considering two options: a. request a change of ACEC regs to allow improvement dredging or b. file for a variance to dredge a small area, narrowly defined, to an historic depth of 3-4 FT Mean Low Water. Agencies such as MEPA, ACEC, & DEP would have to approve such a variance.

The Steering Committee is seeking input from town boards before any official request. Would the Advisory Committee support and recommend pursuing options for improvement dredging at the proposed site?

Judy Scanlon asked about potential damage. Judith said that review is yet to be done.

David Slack asked about disposition of spoils. Judith said there would be a number of areas in need of nourishing.

Mark suggested the Committee have written documentation of the proposal before voting. Judith promised to provide same. Rich tabled the discussion for now.

2. Dawson reported Nauset had plenty of steamers this summer season, best in ten years. Might get one or two more very good years depending on mortality due to such causes as worms and overcrowding.

3. Dawson said the stretch of backside between Nauset Inlet and the old Chatham Inlet was the focal point for the commercial N.E. bass fishery. Launch ramps were extremely over crowded. No official town action was taken on the assumption that next year's fish might be elsewhere. If not, Dawson, Police & Fire will arrive at a plan to reduce the congestion. Overuse of town dock

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and ramp facilities by varied users may also require new regulations. These users include commercial and non-commercial fishermen, seal tours, and kayak groups.

4. The River Rd. launch ramp contract was awarded to Robert Our Corp. which has produced quality work for other towns including Sesuit Harbor and was low bidder. Work is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

5. Lastly Dawson said the seal population sky rocketed in the Nauset Estuary the 2nd week of August and is still high, mostly just inside the inlet feeding on whatever prey sweeps in on the tide. Two minke whales were observed off Tern Island as well as a leatherback turtle near Hopkins Island. Also, pingers have been set to detect tagged white sharks to help assure safety for swimmers.

Rich commenced a review of the Charge's criteria for membership. He said a potential new member was disqualified because the requisite number of at-large members already sat on the board. Discussion ensued over the lack of aquaculturists and shell fishermen on the board. Dawson will provide Rich with a list of license holders who might then be contacted. David Slack asked if Phil Peterson had officially resigned. The general consensus was that although we had nothing in writing, Phil had removed himself from the Committee.

Continuing with the meeting's agenda, Rich reviewed the list of Charges to the Committee which were adopted in October of 1999 for possible revisions:

1. Judy will re-write the 'liaison paragraph and maybe the 'education & awareness' one.
2. Dawson: the Town takes advantage of perhaps 5-10% of available state and federal grants.
3. Mark volunteered to look into "liaison with the Shellfish and Waterways program of Eastham....."
4. Judy suggested anadromous fish runs and eel count be added to the Charge.
5. Dawson suggested all members review the Charge and make recommendations at the next meeting.

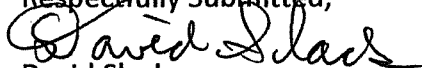
Rich moved onto discussing potential 2012 directions etc. of the Committee. David Slack suggested that members review the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group's website regarding enhancement ideas. He also mentioned a new draft by DMF of "Shellfish Planting Guidelines" which is available for review on their website. He also promised to provide a link to Dr. Dale Leavitt's comments on the Draft.

Other ideas: Judy had visited Wellfleet shellfish grants and suggested trying to catch oyster spat with Chinese hats in different waters including the Cedar Pond. Dawson mentioned trying to catch scallop spat with no success.

Rich commented on the fine job of those involved with "Celebration of our Waterways". Other ideas were a herring run tour and a quahog dig.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,


David Slack

