

Orleans Shellfish & Waterways Improvement Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of October 9, 2012

In attendance was Rich Tyldesley (Chair), Mark Matheson (Vice Chair), Howard Steillin, Judy Scanlon, Jack Moran, Dawson Farber (Harbormaster & Shellfish Constable), David Dunford (Selectman), Suzanne Phillips (Citizen), Gerry Dorman (Citizen) and Paul Kelliher. (Citizen)

The minutes of the September, 2012 meeting were voted on and accepted as written.

Harbormaster's Report – Dawson Farber

Parking of boat trailers during the commercial Bass season was again this year disruptive to the neighbors near the town landings and traffic in the area. Dawson is looking into possible solutions and is consulting with the Town Attorney regarding available parking, parking fees, increasing fines for illegally parked vehicles, and differentiating between residents and non-residents. He will present his suggestions to the Orleans Board of Selectmen (BOS) at their December 5th meeting. Mark Matheson stated that he feels that a "town-wide" solution is necessary.

Dawson stated that the boulders and split rail fence were placed at Cove Road landing, in conjunction with the Orleans Conservation Committee to prevent further parking on the wetlands adjacent to the landing.

Dawson has met with the Harbormasters of Chatham, Eastham, Wellfleet and Truro, the National Seashore and commercial fishermen regarding the sharks that have observed off-shore. They are looking at shark "control" programs that have been implemented word-wide in order to develop a plan for the towns involved. The liability of the towns regarding Shark Warnings is a major concern... There is a feeling that the less a town does the less liability it may incur. Dawson hopes to have some additional information for the BOS in the next few months.

Gerry Dorman of the Orleans Pond Coalition (OPC) Spoke of the up Weller placed in Lonnie's Pond this summer. 15,000 seed oysters were donated by ARC in June. The seed was approximately 3.5mm each when placed in the up Weller and grew to 3.5 inches by September. They have been moved to racks in Mill Pond and will be distributed throughout the estuaries in spring 2013.

The subject of the purchase of ARC by the county of Barnstable was raised and Dawson reiterated his support for the proposal, citing the need for seed shellfish, the lack of availability if ARC closed. He stated that the town purchase \$20,000 of seed shellfish every year. Judy Scanlon asked what would be the economic impact on the town would be, if ARC closed and seed was no longer readily available. Dawson said he could not give an estimate, but shellfish license fees would decrease.

Mark Matheson raised the concerns we discussed in the previous meeting:

Is ARC that should be continued?

Does the County of Barnstable want to do the purchase of ARC?

BOS must define financial and contractual criteria to protect the Town.

Is the County plan viable?

Is the County issue a Bond to purchase the facility?

The Committee voiced its support for the proposed purchase, if the legal and operational issues can be resolved.

Judy Scanlon proposed the following be forwarded to the BOS:

"I move that Orleans Shellfish & Waterways Improvement Advisory Committee support the regional effort to retain the ARC shellfish culture facility and work with Orleans Harbormaster and the BOS to help identify potential ways to achieve this goal"

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved and will be sent to the BOS.

Rich Tyldesley said that a citizen in the Jackknife Point had asked about extending the "No Wake Zone out further into the River because of damage to docks in the area by boaters. Dawson was aware of the situation and said that any change would have to be approved by the Town Meeting based on a Petition from the concerned parties... He feels that more property owners have boats and the moorings have been placed further out into the River increasing the impact of any wake. Any change would be an unfunded mandate and would require additional buoys, education of boaters and enforcement would be difficult. He is not in favor of any changes at this time as there is no indication of a public safety issue.

The meeting was adjourned.