

Oak Bluffs Shellfish Committee Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2010

Members present: Earl Peters, Paul Humber, and Fred Huss

Greg Skomal was off island and unable to attend meeting

Others present: David Grunden, Lynn Fraker and William Alwardt

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM.

Constables' Report

Constable Grunden read his February 2010 report.

Member Huss asked about the East Chop puddle.

Constable Grunden explained that the East Chop Association has given permission to put system on their property to mitigate the collection of water in the roadway and filter it before it goes into Oak Bluffs Harbor.

Motion: To accept the report as read. By: Member Huss. Second: Member Humber. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Other Business

Sengekontacket Pond

William Alwardt wanted to know where the permits for dredging Sengekontacket Pond were.

Constable Grunden explained that he is working with CLE Engineering to get the required eel grass monitoring program in place, and he just received qualification sheet from Fathom Archaeology and sent that to the Tribe, which will also need to be approved by Army Corps.

Mr Alwardt said that Duncan Ross told him that the Tribe is still holding up the project. He is concerned that about the delay in getting the permit.

Constable explained that the Town of Oak Bluffs doesn't want to sign a contract with Fathom Archaeology if the Tribe & Army Corp doesn't approve them to do work. He added that the eel grass program should be in place by the middle of March.

Lynn Fraker advised that for the permit to be issued Army Corp needs to approve Fathom Archaeology and could have been emailed to them. She added that the biggest delay has been the Tribe not responding to requests by the Town and Army Corps. She said that National Marine Fisheries delayed in their approval until December 4, 2009; then Coastal Zone Management wanted a comment period into January 2010 but waived it. Army Corps contacted Ms Fraker in January waiting for approval from the Tribe for Fathom Archaeology.

Constable Grunden said he was unaware that CZM had waived the comment period.

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Ms Fraker said that Duncan Ross was aware of it.

Constable Grunden said he will contact the Tribe again and ask them get something to Army Corps as soon as possible.

Ms Fraker stressed the importance of the eel grass monitoring plan and it needs to be in place before dredging begins.

Mr Alwardt felt that the survey should have been done in September. He felt that there was no response from the Board of Selectmen.

Constable Grunden said that he has been looking for grant money to pay for additional dredging but has not found any and if Mr Alwardt knows of any to please inform him.

Ms Fraker suggested maybe there is some grant money for the research that is required.

Mr Alwardt asked if the Town of Oak Bluffs was still considering selling the sand.

Constable Grunden repeated that he has gone through the federal and state registry for grant money but he has found nothing that applies to their project.

Ms Fraker read the December 14, 2009 email she received from Army Corps:

“...spoke with my supervisor and as long as all the material will be place above mean high tide line and is not in our jurisdiction then we would issue the permit for dredging... would like to work with Mike to make sure the eel grass is protected and would include special conditions in the permit but nothing that would hold up the issuance.”

And on December 16, 2009 from Army Corps:

“...a permit will be issued with the conditions that no material will be placed on Pay or Inkwell until all issues with National Marine Fisheries are resolved.”

Mr Alwardt wanted to know about the Little Bridge channel; he would like to see the inside channel be dredged.

Constable Grunden advised that the outside channel would be done in the spring with an excavator but it was unlikely the inside could be done due to costs of getting a dredge in place. He is willing to work with him or anyone else to find money and put a grant application together but unless there is a potential source for the funding it is not worth the time to write a proposal.

Mr Alwardt said that Michael Dutton told him that they would apply for money through Delahunt's office; that there will be stimulus money for the next two-three years and the Town needs to apply.

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Constable Grunden replied that he did receive a call from CZM asking about the Sengekontacket Pond project. He will contact Delahunt's office to discuss options; they need to issue a Request For Proposals so he knows what put in the application and who to send it to. He reiterated that there has been nothing in the federal register.

Chairman Peters said that the Board of Selectmen needs to do more with follow up. He thanked Ms Fraker for her efforts on the project.

Motion: To close the meeting. By: Chairman Peters. Second: Member Humber. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Meeting closed at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole L Morey
Shellfish Secretary