

Members present: Mark Landers, Fred Huss, and Greg Skomal

Others present: David Grunden, William Alwardt, Anthony "Wills" Moreis and George Chapman

Meeting opened at 6:06 PM.

#### Constables' Report

Constable Grunden read his June 2010 report.

**Motion: To accept June 2010 report. By: Member Huss. Second: Member Skomal. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.**

#### Baskets

By consensus it was agreed to keep the wire bushels baskets and legal limit boxes and not go to the larger "shrimp" baskets.

#### Regionalization with Tisbury

Members discussed the possibility of the Shellfish Department combining with Tisbury's and were advised that Board of Selectmen is forming a committee to look into the possibility. They were concerned about Tisbury residents' shellfishing in Oak Bluffs' waters.

Constable Grunden responded that was not necessarily true, it depends on what and how it is set up as there are many issues that will need to be resolved. He said he met with Oak Bluffs Town Administrator and told him that he didn't see a whole lot of financial savings combining the two departments. He stated that new joint committee meetings would be open to the public.

**Motion: To send a letter to the Selectmen asking that a member of the Shellfish Committee be appointed to the joint Oak Bluffs-Tisbury committee. By: Vice-chairman Landers. Second: Member Skomal. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.**

#### Crab traps

Wills Moreis reported that he is tending the crab trap every other day and he was getting 12-14 gallons of green crabs each time with most being caught off the lobster hatchery. He also said that some traps are already missing.

Vice-chairman Landers asked if more wire could be purchased to build more traps.

Constable Grunden agreed to order another roll of wire.

#### Resignation

June 15, 2010

Member Skomal advised that he will be resigning from the Shellfish Committee due to a promotion with the DMF and is leaving Martha's Vineyard.

Sengekontacket Pond

Constable Grunden said that they are trying to set dates for the archaeological survey.

George Chapman of 2 Massasoit Avenue, Oak Bluffs said that he and thousands of others are upset that Sengekontacket Pond will not be open again this summer.

- Wants brief explanation of status
- Any hope of shellfishing this summer in Sengekontacket Pond
- Is Lagoon Pond open? And why can it be open and not Sengekontacket Pond?

He was under the impression (from the Vineyard Gazette) that it was the Oak Bluffs Shellfish Department who did not take enough water samples or at the right time to get the pond open.

Constable Grunden advised that it was the State Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) who is responsible to take the water samples and they are the ones who imposed the closure on the Towns. DMF had told both himself and the Edgartown Constable in February that it was likely to be opened under a "rain fall event" closure rule for 2010, in March the DMF formally advised the Towns of this decision but on the third Friday in May, they called up and said they changed their minds as there were gaps in DMF data. He continued that the Town has tested the water but the State won't accept the results. He added that the Towns of Oak Bluffs & Edgartown had DNA testing done and found that most of the pollutants come from birds and DMF said that they will look at that data.

The goose addling egg program was explained but Mr Chapman was advised that cormorants cannot be touched under Federal law.

Constable Grunden said that there will be no shellfishing in Sengekontacket Pond until October 1<sup>st</sup>. He explained the testing of ponds is all under the DMF jurisdiction and they have approved Lagoon Pond for clamming.

Committee members ensured him that they were also frustrated with the closure of Sengekontacket Pond and encouraged him to write to both local papers as well as to the DMF.

**Motion: To close the meeting. By: Member Huss. Second: Member Skomal. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.**

Meeting closed at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole L Morey  
Shellfish Secretary