

Oak Bluffs Shellfish Committee Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2008

Members present: Earl Peters, Mark Landers, Joseph Leonardo

Others present: David Grunden, William Alwardt, Jeffrey Clements

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM.

Previous Minutes

Members read previous minutes.

Truck use & Deputies

Chairman Peters asked for an update.

Constable Grunden said he advised both deputies to be aware of the mileage.

Chairman Peters suggested that due to financial constraints of the Town, they might not need another deputy if Sengekontacket Pond was closed.

Constable Grunden said the mileage use is now under control and advised that if the seasonal position is eliminated they would have to cut back on what they do.

Vice-chairman Landers said that they would still have the work load with rafts, etc.

Chairman Peters said he wanted a boat on a trailer at the Lagoon Pond landing during scallop season.

Constable Grunden agreed.

Starfish in Lagoon Pond

William Alwardt brought up the fact that there a lot of large starfish in Lagoon Pond and is worried about the scallop seed.

Constable Grunden concurred that there seem to be more moving from the head of the pond down the pond.

It was suggested to use a mop drag to remove them.

Moving scallop seed

Constable Grunden advised to wait until weather warms more before starting to move seed.

Town By-law

William Alwardt asked how to go about getting a Town by-law to have septic systems around the ponds up-graded.

Constable Grunden replied that what is currently required by Oak Bluffs Board of Health is that they upgrade to the current Title 5 regulations which protects human health but it does nothing for the nutrients (nitrogen) in the waste stream which gets into the ground water and into the ponds. This in turn causes growth of phytoplankton which blocks the sunlight which inhibits the growth of eel grass, etc.

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Mr Alwardt wanted to know how to change it.

Constable Grunden said that there were two ways; go to Board of Health and ask them to adopt a regulation under their own authority or by petition you could ask for a by-law to be voted at Town meeting.

He suggested working through the Board of Health again and he expected Mr Alwardt to attend any meetings, which he agreed to do.

Constable Report

Constable Grunden read his February report.

There were no questions on it.

Lagoon Quahog Relay

As Sengekontacket Pond was going to be closed, Constable Grunden proposed to do the relay again this year and was asking the Committee to recommend establishing four sub-sections within Lagoon Pond:

- Drawbridge to Lobster Hatchery
- Lobster Hatchery to Lagoon Road
- Lagoon Road to Hudson Avenue
- Hudson Avenue to Sailing Camp

He suggested planting two areas heavily this year and trying to open them in the fall. He added that they usually try to get 800 bushels but have only received about 600 bushels in the last few years.

The Committee wanted to plant only one section this spring and agreed to recommend the sections to the Board of Selectmen.

It was suggested allowing power dredging in Sengekontacket Pond should the channel ever be dredged.

They discussed dragging the flat by drawbridge.

Vice-chairman Landers asked if they could transfer quahogs from Sengekontacket Pond to other areas.

Constable Grunden advised that permits would be required plus a meat sample test which could cost \$1,000.00 each time.

Steamers

Jeffrey Clements requested that the limit on steamers be raised to two bushels.

Motion: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen an increase the steamer clam limit to two bushels. By: Vice-chairman Landers. Second: Chairman Peters. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Motion to close the meeting was passed unanimously 3-0.

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Meeting closed at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole L Morey
Shellfish Secretary