

Members present: Mark Landers, Paul Humber, Frederick Huss, William Alwardt and Elizabeth Mansure

Others present: David Grunden, Nicole Morey, Jeffrey Clements, and Walter Vail (BoS)

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM

Commercial Shellfish Application

Committee members reviewed and unanimously approved Jeffrey Clements's commercial shellfish license application.

Previous Minutes

Previous minutes of August 16, 2011 were read.

Motion: To accept minutes as read. By: Vice-chairman Landers. Second: Member Humber. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Shellfish Constable's Report

Constable Grunden read his September 2011 report.

He advised that that there was a small algae bloom in Major's Cove and that the August water testing results in the first round showed every area with high counts. He said that he has discussed with DMF the possibility of opening the front section only.

Member Mansure stated that the DMF won't "spot" open a pond even though it is only two areas that are consistently high.

Selectmen Vail wanted to know who to contact regarding the issue.

He was given the following names:

- Environmental Analyst Michael Hickey
- Director Paul Diodati
- Deputy Director Dan McKeirnan
- Aquatic Biologist Michael Syslo

Member Alwardt thought that the BoS should speak with Mr Hickey.

Members thought something could be posted on beaches about the invasive tunicates and how people can help lessen their spread.

Motion: To accept the report. By: Chairman Landers. Second: Member Huss. Motion passed 5-0.

Scallop dates

Constable Grunden recommended the following dates:

Sengekontacket Pond:

Recreational - October 1, 2011

Commercial – October 10, 2011

Outside Waters:

Recreational – October 15, 2011

Commercial – October 17, 2011

Lagoon Pond:

Recreational – October 29, 2011

Commercial – October 31, 2011

Harbor:

Recreational – December 10, 2011

Commercial – December 12, 2011

All limits would be the same as the previous year.

Motion: To accept recommend the above dates to the BoS. By: Vice-chairman Humber. Second: Chairman Landers. Motion passed 5-0.

Scallop catch

Members were given the 2010 scallop catch report by Constable Grunden.

Gear report

Constable Grunden gave an update of the gear; he advised that he will be fixing the rigging soon.

He said that they were catching less green crabs and more spider crabs so they may need to change the traps.

Dip net area

Members discussed if the area set aside in Lagoon Pond was open for commercial permit holders.

Motion: To designate the area behind the floats in Lagoon Pond for recreational permit holders only. By: Chairman Landers. Second: Member Mansure. Motion passed 5-0.

Little Bridge

Committee was advised that the Edgartown dredge will look at blockage and will dredge if possible.

New member

Chairman Landers welcomed new member Elizabeth Mansure to the committee.

Sengekontacket Pond update

Members discussed the need for future dredging between the islands in order to get water circulating.

Farm Pond

Constable Grunden advised that CLE was behind schedule but conceptual drawings are almost complete. He said he is still waiting to hear about grant for engineering and consultant to see it through. He added that the maintenance plan would include dredging but it would be the Town's responsibility to pay for it.

"Draft" regulations

Member Alwardt was concerned about the possibility of people putting aquaculture rafts under their piers which might be allowed in new regulations.

Constable Grunden assured him that it would be under the Shellfish Department's control.

Letter to BoS

Members requested that a letter be drafted for them to sign asking BoS to contact the DMF regarding the possibility of opening Sengekontacket Pond in 2012 with only closing it due to rainfall.

Winter flounder study

Constable Grunden said that it will end in late October or early November and that the Tisbury Shellfish Department will be doing more of the work than Oak Bluffs. He said that UNH will assess the data and decide which pond will be used.

He said that local flounder raised in the Aquinnah hatchery will be used as Member Alwardt was concerned about farmed fish being introduced into island waters.

Meeting closed at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole L Morey
Shellfish Secretary