

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

Others present: David Grunden, Nicole Morey, Earl Peters and Kyle Peters

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM

Chairman Landers presented former Chairman Earl Peters with a plaque in appreciation for his many years of service on the Shellfish Committee. Mr Peters had been on the Shellfish Committee since 1991.

Commercial Shellfish Application

Committee members reviewed and unanimously approved the following commercial shellfish license application:

- James Wilson

Shellfish Constable's Report

Constable Grunden read his November 2011 report.

He advised that the Town had received a grant from restore America's Estuaries to pay for the engineering study of Farm Pond and a consultant to start estimating costs and look for funding.

Motion: To accept the report. By: Chairman Landers. Second: Member Mansure. Motion passed 4-0.

Member Huss arrived at 6:10 PM.

Cormorants

Chairman Landers felt that the large population of the cormorants in Sengekontacket is not only bad for the flounder but the nesting puts waste into the ponds.

Member Alwardt stated they need to prove that they are keeping the pond closed in order to be allowed to euthanize them.

Constable Grunden said he had been told in the past that they cannot harass them and they would need the property owner's permission. He thought that the Massachusetts forbids it. He also said that the pond could be closed for swimming due to bacteria levels but open for shellfishing.

Members said that they would review the information given to them by Member Alwardt and Chairman Landers said he would speak with Gus Ben David.

Recreational Limit

Constable Grunden suggested that the members review the current regulations and any changes could be presented to the Board of Selectmen at one time. He did not want to make any limit changes for the current season.

Member Mansure disagreed because Tisbury had changed their regulations mid-season and felt it could be done for January 1st.

Constable Grunden thought that they could recommend increasing the non-resident recreational license effective January 1st. He added that when the commercial limits were increased in the past that the recreational limits did not go up.

Chairman Landers did not want to see any changes to the senior limit as it is difficult for many of them to get to the water.

Member Alwardt felt it was out of control.

Constable Grunden said that there were two issues; limit size and the senior limit.

Mr Wilson said that Oak Bluffs is the only town that requires you to give up your recreational permit when you get a commercial permit.

Motion: To recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the non-resident recreational license fee be increased to \$400.00 (to be the same as Tisbury) effective January 1, 2012. By: Member Mansure. Second: Member Huss. Motion passed 5-0.

Constable Grunden said that enforcement of some regulations is discretionary, any changes to the regulations needs more discussion and should be done all at once with it going into effect 30 days after Board of Selectmen approval.

Members will review regulations and bring any changes they would like to see to the next committee meeting for discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Members Alwardt and Mansure said that there were three Tisbury boats over the line (Searle, Maseda & Pachico) and they had all been given a warning. They added that the Tisbury Constable had also witnessed it and will be informed of Oak Bluffs intent to issue tickets on the next offense.

Meeting closed at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole L Morey
Shellfish Secretary