

Members present: Paul Humber, Fred Huss, William Alwardt and Elizabeth Mansure

Others present: David Grunden, Jason Mallory and Nicole Morey

Meeting opened at 6:04 PM

Previous Minutes

Previous minutes of January 17, 2012 were read.

Vice-chairman Humber said that the new regulation regarding waiving the recreational license fee for veterans should include their DD214 card.

Motion: To accept minutes as amended. By: Chairman Landers. Second: Vice-chairman Humber. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Shellfish Constable's Report

Constable Grunden read his February 2012 report.

He advised that the Farm Pond project is at the 25% design stage; with a larger amount of water going through a bigger opening should allow better flushing of the pond. He said that MassDOT will have to be involved as the roadway may need to be elevated. Also that maintenance of the culvert would be included on the grant but still need to look for funding for the project.

Motion: To accept the report. By: Member Huss. Second: Vice-chairman Humber. Motion passed 4-0.

Constable Grunden further explained about his meeting with the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) regarding opening Sengekontacket Pond this summer. He said if they don't get a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from DMF regarding the rainfall closure limits then it will automatically close on June 1st.

Members reviewed the maps attached to the monthly report from the DMF. They expressed concern about July's classification – closure after ½ inch of rain. It was suggested that a flag pole be erected by the Little Bridge and on the Edgartown side of the Big Bridge to indicate whether the pond was open or closed. There should also be signs and buoys to mark areas.

Constable Grunden suggested putting all of this year's relay stock into Lagoon Pond between Lagoon Road and the Hatchery just in case Sengekontacket is closed. He said he has sent letter to five interested fishermen as written quotes are required and it would not be done before the end of April.

Regulation Review

Members continued to review regulations and voted on the following changes:

Scuba Diving

#22b) Amend to read “only recreational diving, snorkeling or swimming will be allowed in Lagoon Pond on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.”

#28b) Eliminate the section that reads “The daily limit for the taking of scallops within the waters of Oak Bluffs shall be set by the Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen prior to the opening the season annually or at any time during the season the Oak Bluffs Selectmen may vote to change the daily limit.”

#31a) Change to read: “The area which at the discretion of the Shellfish Constable or Deputy designates as the seed area.”

#31b) Eliminate the section that reads “the area designated by the Selectmen as the area for family licensees to dip net only.”

#31d) Change to read “the Shellfish Constable may designate an area each scallop season for recreational dip netting only and dragging will be prohibited. The area will be marked by buoys set out by the Shellfish Department personnel.”

#36a) Eliminate “Boats shall not exceed 40 (forty) feet in length at the water line.”

#39) Change to read “the daily limit for commercial licenses shall be three (3) struck bushels; one (1) bushel of chowders, one (1) bushels of cherrystones and one (1) bushel of littlenecks.”

#44) Change to read “the commercial limit shall be no more than two (2) bushels per day, Monday through Friday.”

Members asked the Constable to reword #33 regarding scallops that are washed ashore by storm conditions.

Meeting closed at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole L Morey
Shellfish Secretary