

Oak Bluffs Members present: Mark Landers, William (Billy) Alwardt, Elizabeth (Betty) Mansure and Dan Martino.

Tisbury Members present: James Tilton, Jackie Willey, John Custer and John Kollett.

Others Present: Oak Bluffs Constable David Grunden, Tisbury Constable Danielle Ewart, Tisbury Harbormaster John Crocker and Oak Bluffs Deputy Constable Chuck Fisher.

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM

New Business

Discussion & recommendations for the dredging of Lagoon Pond

Tisbury Constable Danielle Ewart said that she felt a joint meeting to discuss Lagoon Pond dredging issues would be helpful before going to the Selectmen.

Oak Bluffs Committee Chairman Mark Landers said that he has been concerned about this issue for years; both inside and outside.

Tisbury Harbormaster John Crocker advised that he spoke with the bridge tender who said that while there is 10 feet on water under the bridge, outside the bridge it is about 6 feet.

Mark said that the propagation of shellfish has declined in Lagoon Pond and he doesn't know if it is a volume issue of getting the water to flow in and out of the pond.

Danielle presented a map and members discussed changes in the channel as well as the flat on the inside of the drawbridge on the Oak Bluffs side. They discussed various places within the pond that could use dredging; Sandy Point, channel to Hines Point, etc.

Oak Bluffs Members Billy Alwardt and Elizabeth Mansure feel that the barges used for the drawbridge project is what caused the sand to shoal up both inside and outside of the pond.

Oak Bluffs Constable David Grunden said that the MVC water quality data indicates that there are two different ponds; not getting good water exchange.

Mark said he does not know where the money will come from but the Oak Bluffs Shellfish Committee wants to see more water flow into the Lagoon Pond and the question is what would be the most valuable points to dredge to make that happen.

John Crocker said that they have a Request for Qualifications to go out shortly to hire a consultant as the dredge permits have expired.

He added that the first major issue is the channel both inside and outside of the pond.

David said that it is a navigation issue as well as a water quality issue.

John Crocker said that it is his understanding that is a federal channel; someone should contact Army Corp of Engineering (ACOE) as the permitting takes a while and if it is their channel then they would do it.

Billy and Betty believe that the last time the channel was dredged was in 1973.

There was a discussion regarding where the dredged material would be deposited.

Danielle advised that both Boards of Selectmen have been discussing the maintenance of Eastville Beach.

Betty said that they have to get the Selectmen to understand the need to get the pond dredged.

David said that twenty years ago when he worked for the Tribe, he was told that they were going to get ACOE to dredge in Menemsha Pond so can take a while.

Oak Bluffs Member Dan Martino said that he is on the board of the Lagoon Pond Association and has spoken with LPA President Doug Reece; they could have an event to raise money for a dredge survey that will need to be done to determine which areas need to be dredged.

John Crocker advised that the pre- and post- dredge surveys cost about \$5,600 for Tashmoo Pond. He said that they used CR Environmental from Falmouth and came out with a chart that was color coded by depth so it was easy to see. He added that it was on Tisbury's website.

Betty asked about funding sources for the Tashmoo dredging project.

John Crocker explained that they received a grant for half and the other half was paid from the Waterways Fund which was voted at Town meeting and is funded by mooring permit fees.

David said that Oak Bluffs has a Shellfish revolving fund which is funded by a portion of shellfish license fees.

Mark said that it is used for the propagation and protection of shellfish.

John Crocker advised that they had a Memorandum of Understanding with Edgartown Dredge and he strongly advised using a municipal dredge. He explained the process of doing a survey first which determines how much should be removed, they then meet with Edgartown Dredge who advised how much they could remove per day and they figure out how many days it would take with a little breathing room added in.

He added that there are many permitting agencies to go through; ACOE, CZM, DEP, ConCom, Natural Heritage, etc and took almost an 18 months.

There was a discussion on whether Community Preservation Act money could be used.

The consensus was that the ACOE should be contacted first to find out if it is a Federal channel and have as many facts about the channel as possible before meeting with the Selectmen.

Danielle suggested putting out a RFP to find out how much it would cost to do the survey with recommendations on where to remove sand and how much to remove.

There was a discussion of where the town line was located.

Danielle asked John Crocker who would have to get the permit to dredge at Prime Marine (formerly Maciel Marine). It was determined that they would have to get the permit and they would have to have someone survey the channel to determine how much shellfish was in the channel and be compensated for it.

Dan asked about the Lagoon boat landing and if the State is required to maintain the depths at that dock. No one had the answer to the question.

Tisbury Shellfish Committee Chairman Jim Tilton asked about getting the State to assist with the dredging as it was the building of the drawbridge that created the issue with the channel.

David replied that Oak Bluffs tried. There is a possibility that LPA and TWI could have funding for the initial survey.

There was discussion of Lagoon Pond moorings; how often boats move within the Lagoon, pump outs, etc. It takes 14-17 days for a full water exchange in the Lagoon.

John Crocker advised that Tisbury may change to seven (7) days before the boat has to move. He added that challenge is enforcing the regulations especially in the Lagoon.

Danielle, David and Dan will get together at the Oak Bluffs Shellfish office and contact ACOE.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole L Morey
Shellfish Secretary