



Town of Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts  
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February 2015 Report

The word of the month is ice ice ice! For this past month the ponds have been iced over. On warmer days there has been a very scant few out in the harbor shellfishing.

Jason and Sarah have been working on building the silos for the oyster tidal upweller. We are fortunate to have some use of the Hughes Hatchery that is heated to do this work.

I have been in the office most of the month working on grant applications and in-kind commitments. If we get all the grants we may be hard pressed to get all the work done.

The Joint Tisbury – Oak Bluffs Nitrogen Planning Committee has submitted an article to both towns special town meeting. This is the next step required to move forward and be able to make the tough decisions for the health of Lagoon Pond. The article reads as follows:

To see if the Town, in response to the Massachusetts Estuaries Project report, will vote to establish, for planning and protection purposes, a Nitrogen management district to include the entire Lagoon Pond watershed falling within town borders, according to maps and boundaries established by the Martha's Vineyard Commission, as part of a management plan to restore the health of the Lagoon Pond, or take any action thereto.

The work on the drawbridge is still on schedule for completion next fall. MA Department of Transportation has installed a webcam so you can stay abreast of the project in real time. The link is <http://earthcam.net/projects/middlesex/lagoonpondbridge/>

The Community Preservation Committee allowed me to file a very late funding request for a portion of the required match to the grant through the federal Estuary Restoration Act. They voted to recommend \$125,000 in both FY 16 and FY 17. This represents about half the required amount. There will be an article on the annual town meeting asking for the remainder of the match amount.

The MA Estuaries Project has released the final report on Tashmoo Pond. I attended the presentation and the results are very similar to Lagoon Pond. There is a very small piece of Oak Bluffs in this watershed.

I at the request of the town attorney I prepared and submitted an affidavit in response to an affidavit that was filed by the suing party. This is in regard to the law suit against the town over the licensing of a private aquaculture site.

I will be attending the National Shellfisheries Association Annual Meeting the end of March.

Respectfully submitted,