

Jennifer Hays
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

Shellfish and Waterways Improvement Advisory Committee - June 13th, 2023

In attendance: B. Amaru, M. Carroll, A. Mathison, M. Mathison, S. Phillips, C. Poosikian, P. Przygocki, N. Sears, D. Slack. Absent: D. Edmunds, J. Quigley.

Approval of Minutes: May 2023 minutes approved. 5-0-2.

Public Comment: None.

Orleans Comprehensive Plan

a. The committee reviewed a draft on shellfish management and coastal water quality and voted 6-1-0 to submit the draft to the Orleans Planning Department with an inclusion to focus on enhancing an environmentally sustainable local "blue" economy.

b. The committee also reviewed the shellfish section of the town's Economic Development Plan.

Wellfleet Dredging Project Update

- Committee member David Slack gave a report on a mitigation plan for oysters and quahogs to satisfy the requirements of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Natural Resources/Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable Report Nate Sears:

- Harbormaster Nate Sears reviewed the articles related to shellfish and waterways that passed favorably at the Annual Town Meeting (ATM).
- Dredge Project at Rock Harbor update: dredging is slated to begin this fall (2023). The town is working with Audubon and Natural Heritage to develop a mitigation plan for potentially affected species, such as terrapins. All vessels (commercial and recreational) will need to vacate the harbor by early October. Dredge work will commence soon after and should finish by the end of December for right whale restrictions. Nate also addressed the differences between maintenance dredging vs. improvement dredging and the possibility of altering our approach in the future.
- Herring Run update: the town is eligible for a grant through the Conservation Service to refurbish the herring run after securing 25% of the construction cost (\$400k) at the ATM.
- Rock Harbor fuel tank replacement update: Nate will file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Conservation Commission in mid-May. Work will begin this winter (2023-2024).
- Shellfish update: Nauset Estuary closed March 28th, 2023 due to PSP. Pleasant Bay closed on April 12th, 2023 and opened on June 2nd, 2023 except for soft shell clams and snails, then opened fully on June 8th, 2023 except for whelk.
- Stormwater Remediation Project update: Snow Shore, Champlain, and Portanimitcut landings are completed. Mill Pond landing is not completed, the contractor will need to clean up the site for the summer and then return in the fall for completion.

- Parking regulations went into effect at Tonset, Snow Shore, and Mill Pond for the summer. Orleans resident stickers are required from June 15th - September 15th from 9am - 5pm.
- Oversand Vehicle (OSV) update: Nate is optimistic that if the weather cooperates the residents' side beach will rebuild, and is considering creative ways to get residents on and off the beach this summer. He anticipates utilizing the HCP again on the south side, but it is not definite.

Selectboard Liaison Report Mark Mathison:

- Related to the discussion surrounding the economic development plan, Mark spoke to the creation of an economic development committee and noted that our committee should be consulted on the best ways to utilize the town's natural resources in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way to assist in the development of the economy in Orleans.
- There will be a Special Town Meeting (STM) this fall, so the committee should consider potential articles.

Announcements/Topics for Future Meetings:

- Topics for future meetings: annual report on Lonnie's Pond, report on this season's herring count, and a proposed warrant article on pesticides will be discussed at future meetings.
- There will be no July meeting. The next meeting will be on August 8th at 6:00pm.

Motion to adjourn by S. Phillips, second by A. Mathison at 8:40pm.

Submitted by Alexis Mathison on July 8th, 2023.

Approved on **.