

WEST TISBURY SHELLFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2016

PRESENT: David Merry, Rick Karney, John Hoy (came in about halfway through meeting), Virginia Jones

ABSENT: Jason Gale, Peter Vann, Will Whiting

ALSO PRESENT: Warden Ray Gale, Todd Goodell, Richard Goodell, Richard Knabel (BOS), Dr. Kent Healy

Ginny opened the meeting at 5:30 but declared that there was a lack of quorum so we could not vote on the minutes of 10/05/2016, 10/18/2016 and 11/13/2016. They had previously been distributed by e-mail. She apologized to the Goodells for any perceived insults or inappropriate comments made during the past meeting. They both indicated that they were not upset.

She reminded all members that some members still need to take the ethics test (Rick, Will and Ginny have and turned in their certificates to Tara Whiting) and get sworn in (David, Ginny, Rick, and Will have) which must be done by the end of December. These must be attended to in order to remain a voting member of the committee.

Ray reported that Isaiah had emptied out the cages on the WT side on Monday, the 12th using the WT Town boat. During that time out on the Pond he experienced motor problems which he reported to Ray. Without a boat, Ray was unable to get out on the Pond to assess the algae growth. Upon his arrival John Hoy reported that he had been out on the Pond on the 8th or 9th and the algae remains in place and undiminished. Ray exhibited the oysters that he'd brought for the previous meeting and pointed out that the seed on most samples far exceeds the 5% allowed by Massachusetts State Law. He repeated the offer that he had made at the last meeting which was that if anyone wishes to get out on the Pond, he would take them out for a reconnaissance run. That offer still stands but is predicated on there being a boat and motor. He and Isaiah are going to haul the boat and motor tomorrow and the motor will go to Keith Maciel for repairs.

Ginny commented that this reminded her of the need to have a budget for repairs, maintenance, and outfitting. Ray reported that the PFD's, First Aid Kit, gas can and other equipment were stolen from the boat about two months ago. We recommend that those items be replaced before the boat is launched again. There is a budget for shellfish department expenses of \$3950. Pending the cost of the repairs to the motor, we may wish to request a larger sum.

Ginny read Chris Stien's letter to the BOS, and reported that she had had a lengthy conversation with Mr. Stien during which she pointed out inaccuracies and misperceptions in the letter. He was invited to attend future meetings. He declined that invitation.

Discussions took place about the state of the Pond, and Kent Healy exhibited his data about the openings, which he has been collecting for at least 25 years. Rick Karney clarified some details about the recommendation to the BOS made at the last meeting, about the decision to allow dredge use by

recreational permittees. This was voted to give commercial fishermen a chance for a limited fishery, and with the hope that using the dredge in a limited fashion will help with the algae blanket.

Ginny spoke of Jason's e-mail about his opinions which are to continue the closed commercial season. In addition she read Will Whiting's e-mail in which he asked for a trial commercial season. David Merry moved that the commercial season remain closed, and that the recreational season be closed as well. John Hoy was non-committal. Rick commented that he would support opening the commercial season for a month, and leaving the recreational season open as it is currently is. Ginny opted to keep the commercial season closed until after the next opening and the meeting to follow, and keeping the recreational season open until the next meeting. Finally it was agreed that the commercial season will remain closed until the next meeting, and the recreational season will remain open until April 30m 2017. The sense of the meeting was conveyed to Selectman Knabel for action by the BOS. Further it was noted that until the Pond is opened again (probably around the time of the Full Moon in January (January 12, 2017) the oysters are not very tasty due to lack of salt and trying to fish on a full Pond is near impossible, particularly with the algae present.

We will hold another meeting on January 31, 2017 and make another determination at that time. We hope that coming cold weather will kill off the algae bloom and that once the Pond is opened, the wind and tides will carry it out when the Pond or send it ashore.

With four members present we moved, seconded and approved three sets of minutes which were left on the Town Administrator's chair.

Respectfully submitted

Virginia C. Jones, Chair