

WEST TISBURY SHELLFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

19 May, 2022

Meeting was held at town Hall, West Tisbury, at 5 pm.

Present: John Hoy, Rick Karney, Virginia Jones, Jason Gale, David Merry

Absent with apologies: Greg Orcutt

Also Present: Ray Gale, Will Reich, Chris McIsaac, Emily Reddington, Emma Green Beach, Jessie Holtham, Billy Austin, Omar Johnson

Meeting opened at 1700 with a quorum being present.

Action items: 1. it was MV and S to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Jessie Holtham and Bill Austin be appointed to the committee. Both have very impressive professional and personal credentials which will be very beneficial to the water bodies of the Town and to Tisbury Great Pond in particular.

2. Further it was MV and S to recommend to the BOS that the Clam fishing season remain closed for 2022 – as we are attempting to further encourage the health and abundance of the resource.

Scallop shells to be used as cultch have been secured and are at the landing at Sepiessa. They will be spread on Saturday, June 4 starting at 0800. All are welcome.

Also noted: Ginny noted that installation of a new culvert under the Tiah's Cove Road has been completed and that there is now a freely flowing source of fresh water at the head of Tiah's Cove.

Omar filled us in on the recent round of PFAS ("Forever Chemicals") testing which has been underway. Repeat testing to confirm positive results has been done but so far, the results have not been received. Rick Karney had sent 4 links today to recent stories and reports of PFAS impacts on fish and shell fish. We will be receiving much more information and all are working to identify possible sources of possible contamination, as well as ways to prevent further contamination and to prevent it from reaching the Great Pond, and other water bodies.

Emily Reddington reported that David Bouck has made good progress at digitizing about 3000 pages of Kent Healy's data and notes, with some more to be

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completed. It is expected that the results will be available by late June. The information will be invaluable for major water related issues. Billy reported that he has been monitoring and either reinstalling or servicing some of Kent's monitoring equipment.

Ginny noted that she could not find the minutes of the previous meeting – I hope that Greg has a copy. She and Will caught us up to date on the budgeting. We have been approved for the money from the sale of island license plates.

Rick reported on the Climate Change events and urged everyone to listen to the Bio Char presentation (link available by ZOOM) which he feels has great promise to help clean up and sequester carbon (super effective!).

Emma reported on the propagation programs and on ongoing research into how to improve "our" oysters' resistance to dermo. She noted that they are using specimens from several local sources and working to improve oyster's resistance by some careful techniques and thoughtful processes.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Virginia C Jones

Chairman

Approved October 4, 2022