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November 2016 Report

Scallops continue to be harvested from both ponds. The State closure for the threat of amnesic shellfish poisoning has been lifted. The ponds are now open for quahogging and clamming. Also oysters are available in Sengekontacket Pond off the Land Bank's Pecoy Point property.

This past week someone stole the gas tank from the town boat in Lagoon Pond.

The last of the seed scallops we received from the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group will be released this week. The last of the lines will be brought in as well as the dip net only area buoys. I expect to pull the boats for the winter when the last of the gear is in.

Last week we completed the field work of the living shoreline project for this year. There were several from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Atlantic Ecology Division here to help finish off that work for the season. Next summer there should be less work on this project as there should not be any additional installations. The EPA has committed to at least two more additional years of monitoring to evaluate the success of the project. The Town and EPA have developed a strong working relationship over the years. 2016 marks the 12th consecutive year we have worked together on several projects in Oak Bluffs. I need to get an interim report to MA Audubon for this project by December first.

I have submitted a request to the Capital Improvement Committee for funds to winterize the shed we are using. It would make getting the winter gear work done more efficiently. When it gets very cold we bring the gear into the highway barn. This requires us to move the gear twice once to the barn and then back to the shed. I will meet with them at 4:30 on November 16th.

I have submitted two proposals to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The first is to restore/rebuild the coastal bank between the Little Bridge and the Sengekontacket Pond boat ramp. The second proposal is a regional request between Oak Bluffs and Tisbury to repair the Madeiras (Lagoon Pond) Herring Run. I am meeting with the CPC at 7:15 on December 5th.

I have just received the paperwork and work pages for the Town's FY18 budget. I will be working on that. The submission deadline is December first.

I recommend opening the harbor to shellfishing on December 10th for recreational take and on December 12 for commercial take.

I will be attending the joint conference of Restore America's Estuaries and the Coastal Society in December. This is the largest coastal wetland and estuaries restoration conference in the country. I will be delivering an oral power point presentation on the joint town oyster project in Sengekontacket Pond. I will also be developing a poster presentation on the living shoreline project for this conference as well.

Respectfully submitted,