

Edgartown Board of Selectmen's Meeting

October 27, 2014

4:00 PM

A meeting of the Board was held on the date stated above in the meeting room on the first floor of the Edgartown Town Hall. Members present were: Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman; Margaret Serpa; and Michael Donaroma. Also present was Lucy Morrison, filling in for Kristy Rose, Administrative Assistant.

At 4:00 PM, Chairman Smadbeck opened the meeting, and the first item on the agenda, an update on Edgartown Shellfish Oyster project in Majors Cove, was addressed. Present before the Board were Paul Bagnall, and members of the Shellfish Committee: Les Baynes, Cooper Gilkes, and Ryan Smith.

Mr. Bagnall stated that the oyster project has been a fantastic success; the survival rate of the oysters is outstanding, and they are reaching legal harvesting size in 14 to 16 months. Another 500,000 seedlings were recently purchased and are being subdivided for next year, when they can be planted more heavily in Katama, Eel Pond, and Cape Pogue.

Mr. Smadbeck asked about any problems in Sengekontacket Pond. Mr. Bagnall replied that thanks to dredging, the pond has been open to fishing all summer, and that the only closures were due to rainfall. Mr. Bagnall speculated that another four to five years of this program would have a strong impact on the nitrogen levels of the pond.

Mr. Bagnall stated that there are no grants funding this program. The money for seedlings and care was appropriated at the Annual Town Meeting of 2012. Mr. Smadbeck suggested submitting another warrant article for the Annual Town Meeting of 2015 to continue the program, instead of incorporating the program into the regular budgeting process.

Mr. Gilkes stated that the program has at least a 95% success rate, there has been a good return on the investment, and the Town is just beginning to see the benefits now. He strongly recommended making the program a regular part of the budget and shellfishing priorities. Mr. Smith agreed.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that the Board will take the suggestion to continue with the oyster project under advisement.

Mr. Smadbeck then moved onto the next item on the agenda: the review of the Shellfish Constable, Paul Bagnall. Mr. Smadbeck stated that Mr. Bagnall has done a great job, and that his work is appreciated by the Board and the Town. Mr. Donaroma agreed.

Ms. Serpa moved to approve the review. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Smadbeck then opened the floor to Garret Conover of the Beautification Committee. Mr. Conover explained that the wall of family names around the historic whale tail is falling apart, and presented the idea to rebuild the fence and replace the bricks. The fence would be rebuilt to be parallel to the sidewalk. The replacement bricks would be a deeper red and etched with better lettering that is more legible. The wall would be veneered and then structurally capped in bluestone. The project would be funded with private pledges.

Mr. Donaroma and Mr. Smadbeck agreed that it is a great idea. Ms. Serpa stated that it will be a big improvement.

Ms. Serpa moved to accept the design and fundraising plan as explained. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Mr. Smadbeck then presented the following business:

The Construction Change Directive #6 for the new library for light fixtures at a cost of \$2,086 was discussed. Ms. Serpa moved to approve. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous. Mr. Smadbeck signed off on the expenditure.

A noise complaint at the Main Street Diner was addressed. Ms. Serpa moved to send a letter. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Our Market requested to stay open until 9 PM on Sundays. Ms. Serpa moved to approve. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Stuart Fuller requested to accept a bid of \$77 per ton of road salt from Eastern Minerals, Inc. from Lowell, MA. Ms. Serpa moved to approve. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Peter Wells notified the Board that the Chappy ferry will be using one ferry while the other is repaired, and the line of traffic will extend onto North Water Street.

Bill Bishop submitted a letter of resignation from the Historic District Commission. Mr. Donaroma moved to send a letter accepting the resignation. Ms. Serpa seconded. Unanimous. Mr. Donaroma moved to appoint Troy Bettencourt as a replacement. Ms. Serpa seconded. Unanimous.

Scott Ellis, the Assistant Fire Chief, submitted a letter of resignation after 35 years of service. Mr. Donaroma moved to send a letter accepting the resignation with regret. Ms. Serpa seconded. Unanimous.

The Wharf restaurant requested to serve alcohol earlier on Saturday and Sunday for Breakfast with Santa. Ms. Serpa recommended the Board take the request under advisement.

Mr. Smadbeck announced that the Travel Channel will be filming on-island.

A member of the audience was present with questions regarding the solar field.

She asked why the location in the Smith Hollow/Sandy Valley area was chosen, and not the old landfill. Mr. Smadbeck replied that the EPA is still monitoring the old landfill and would not allow any development forward until more data has been collected.

She asked if the Town would need more than two solar fields. Mr. Donaroma replied that it is unknown how much acreage is required, but the Town is doing its due diligence to find out.

She asked why the Town did not simply install panels on all of the Town buildings. Mr. Donaroma replied that comparatively, there would not be enough acreage to the fields. The sewer and the school require an immense amount of electricity.

She asked when the financial reports would be available. Mr. Smadbeck replied that the panels need to actually be producing electricity before any savings estimates will be available.

She asked what would happen if the company went bankrupt. Mr. Smadbeck replied that another company would take over operations and maintenance.

She asked how the Town will handle the loss in property value of the homes in the Smith Hollow/Sandy Valley area. Mr. Smadbeck replied that the Assessors would be able to answer that question, but stated that the solar field does not affect property values of the neighboring homes.

At 4:32 PM, Mr. Donaroma moved to adjourn. Ms. Serpa seconded. All voted aye, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Morrison

Approved:

Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman

Michael J. Donaroma

Margaret E. Serpa
Board of Selectmen