

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, July 21, 2020, 4:30PM
by Zoom Cloud Conference Due to the Covid-19 Crisis

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Jason Mallory, Rob Morrison,
Others: Eric Green, Recorder – Marni Lipke,

The meeting was called to order at 4:31PM. (*Recorder's Note: discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

NEW BUSINESS (See documents on file.)

Eric Green explained his family's preliminary plans for a pier (likely location marked by Ried Sylva) and asked the Committee if they had any concerns on eelgrass or shellfish issues. It would be a short, fixed pier with an aluminum gangway to a float that would be taken in and out. The Committee and staff discussed the location, had no objections and referred him to the Marine Advisory Committee. The next steps would be the official application process to the Edgartown Conservation Commission, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and Marine Advisory Committee.

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Shellfishing in Katama was as busy as in recent years and all propagation was proceeding normally.
- Major's Cove Oyster Farm upweller seed was being split for a second time;
- Staff was repairing some leaks at the Chappaquiddick Nursery.
- Quahog rafts were doing well.
- Staff had surveyed wild scallops and reported a 3 or 4 to one ratio of quirks and, so far, a larger set than the last couple years.
- The new DMF area biologist John Mendes sampled the entire Town and all waters passed. The whole of Sengkontacket Pond would be open for shellfishing up to 0.2 inches for July and August.
- Staff was doing great work, including the summer part-timers, Ralph Peckham and Ron Dumorat.
- Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall attended the Selectmen's meeting on windsurfing, where they renewed the license of Skyhigh Windsurfing. The Gut was starting to get busy, including day tripping boaters from Falmouth (see Minutes: 5/21/19 p.2 & 6/18/19 p.2 & 11/5/19 p.2 & 12/3/29 p.1).

OLD BUSINESS

After the last short opening Paul Bagnall hoped an August opening would give a 1 ft. water level rise.

Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) Update

Amandine Surier resigned over Covid-19 concerns to her family. After 20 years as a valued employee she would be missed. Staff was reorganizing and Emma Green Beach was now the Director. Propagation was proceeding with masks, social distancing, etc. There were less interns this summer. Quahog numbers were down slightly but everyone was hoping for the usual number of bay scallops.

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NEW BUSINESS

Recreational Oyster Harvest

Paul Bagnall proposed opening Sengekontacket Pond and Katama Bay areas to recreational oyster harvesting with State guidelines on the same vibrio regulations as commercial growers: harvesting to shade, icing, etc.

- The Committee asked about State reporting on vibrio cases from recreational harvesting, but Paul Bagnall assured them that State practice was to assume recreationally harvested vibrio cases were due to handling abuse and not counted towards commercial closure thresholds. There were no reported vibrio cases as yet.

LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE RECREATIONAL OYSTERING IN SENGEKONTACKET POND AND KATAMA BAY PER STAFF RECOMMENDATION; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, LES BAYNES—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE.

MINUTES

• CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 19, 2020 MINUTES: RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 4 AYE, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: MADELINE FISHER—AYE, LES BAYNES—AYE, CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesday, August 18, 2020 by Zoom
- MV Oyster Fest - at the MV Museum - Postponed TBD

ADJOURNMENT

• CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:53PM; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: MADELINE FISHER—AYE, LES BAYNES—AYE, CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE.

Actions To Be Done: - None

Documents on File:

- Agenda 7/21/20
- Bagnall/Ewing emails re: Proposed Pier 7/20/20
- Memo re: Proposed Pier Katama Bay 7/20/20
- Site Plan of Land In Edgartown, Mass. Prepared for Carmin Reiss 6/29/20

continued

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Aquaculture Lot Wait List as of 2/28/20:

1. Micah Agnoli	6/21/17	5. Adam Thibodeau	11/7/17
2. Adam Castro	9/5/17	6. Lila Fischer	1/16/18
3. Evan & Andrea Donnelly	9/19/17	7. David "Tubby" Medeiros	2/19/19
4. Clinton Fisher	9/19/17	8. Liam Cosgrove	9/17/19