

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 4:30PM**  
**Edgartown Public Library**

Present: Acting Chair – Ryan Smith, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher\*, Nick Turner  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,  
Others: Juliete Mulinare – Dredge Com., Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:36PM. (*Recorder's Note: discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

NEW BUSINESS

The Dredge Committee asked for comments on the Master Plan Draft (see documents on file). The Shellfish Committee discussed the following issues:

- Les Baynes liked the quotes on the sold sand and suggested cooperative shore preservation with wealthy private homeowners—which would require easements and permits.
- The next phase would include bulkheads, timber walkways, piers and then an entire harbor feasibility study. (The Shellfish Dept. dreamed of an office on the Memorial Wharf second floor.)
- The Committee briefly noted the climate change Forum and impacts on Harbor structures.
- Madeline Fisher expressed her love of Sengekontacket Pond—which was always considered in dredge planning. This year:
  - the borrow area was not deemed sufficient for the 20,000 cubic yd. Cow Bay request; and
  - no November full moon low tide meant the dredge couldn't enter the Pond under the Big Bridge.
- However the Dredge was able to complete the \$150,000 Tisbury Tashmoo Channel dredge.
- Edgartown Great Pond had improved and exhibited no oyster red worm. There was a discussion on catch report and Dudley Levick's letter(s) to the Selectmen around Pond openings (see 3/6/18 Minutes p.1-2).
- Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall and Ryan Smith liked the Cape Pogue proposal which would increase water flow promoting shellfish growth.
- Juliete Mulinare invited any and all members to attend the next Dredge Committee meeting.
- **LES BAYNES MOVED THAT BASED ON THE INFORMATION ON THE 2018 DREDGE MASTER PLAN THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE IS COMFORTABLE WITH THE REPORT UNLESS FURTHER INFORMATION BECAME AVAILABLE; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

A couple limits of older scallops were harvested by 5 or 6 fishermen in Katama Bay but it took them all day. There was not a lot of seed and ice and seaweed scum made fishing difficult.

\* Madeline Fisher left the meeting at 5:03PM.

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A poor oyster market was not encouraging the Sengekontacket wild oyster season, and was a worry to the aquaculture industry. The Committee and staff discussed season openings and closings, locations and oyster vs. scallop sales/seasons.

- The staff discussed a close call when a fishing boat sprang a large hole during a trip.
- Sandy Fisher passed his coastguard inspection.
- Paul Bagnall noted the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative was causing anxiety at the North East Shellfish Conference, in terms of giving aquaculture to larger corporations. He advocated that Town Managers be consulted before interfering with local jurisdiction. There was a discussion on destructive impact of large corporations on the environment, fish populations and small fisheries. The Committee advocated higher Town lease rates to cover all costs, including staff labor rectifying aquaculture lot/equipment abandonment.
- An Edgartown Dept. head meeting dealt with Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) rates. A slight rise in valuation and taxes prompted the removal of the truck and outboard motor articles from the Warrant (see 11/6/18 Minutes p.2), the rest of the Dept. budget was fairly level.

MINUTES

**• RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 20, 2018 MINUTES: LES BAYNES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.**

OLD BUSINESS

- Staff were surplusng oyster bags from abandoned lots.
- The Smith aquaculture transfers would be considered by the Selectmen (see below: Actions).
- Jason Bennett was not attending to his lot and his raft was beginning to drift in the ice (see below: Actions). It would be difficult to purchase the lot lease and equipment in its current condition.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, February 19, & March 5, 2019 at the Library
- Dredge Com. - 4:00PM, Thursdays, February 7, 2019 at Town Hall-2nd Fl.

ADJOURNMENT

**• LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:35PM; NICK TURNER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

continued

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**Actions To Be Done:**

- Paul - Send a letter to Selectmen re: Smith transfer adherence to Wait List Policy.
- Paul/Staff - request Jason Bennett attend a Committee meeting.
- Paul/Christian - ask Jack Blake to attend Committee meetings on aquaculture wait list issues.

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 2/5/19
- Reddington/Great Pond Foundation letter re Edgartown Dredge Committee (3 p.) 1/31/19
- Town of Edgartown Dredging Master Plan Update 2018 Draft (42 p.)