

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

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith, Nick Turner,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,  
Others: Stephanie Choi, Levi Flanders, Jonathan Lipke,  
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.*)

MINUTES

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER, 2019 MINUTES: RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Staff was finishing Major's Cove Oyster Farm air-drying and winter shut down.
- Jason Bennet sold most of his equipment to Lev Welledicca and Roy Scheffer would clean up the remainder of the lot and take over the upweller, hauling and dumping the final cages, to be given to Thomas "Boise" Rogers if he wants them. Next steps were (see below: Actions):
  - Bennett's official written notification to vacate his license/lease;
  - re-siting the lot parameters (changed after the Katama breach and storms);
  - contacting wait list candidates.
- The Selectmen set a December hearing date for the Jack Blake/Dan Gilkes transfer; and hopefully the Scheffer transfers—a little doubtful due to a paperwork glitch. Noah Scheffer requested the license lease include his wife. Later in the meeting
- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO RECOMMEND NOAH SCHEFFER'S WIFE LAUREN BE INCLUDED AS A LICENSE/LEASE HOLDER OF THE LOT; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
- Constable Paul Bagnall continued monitoring the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative (MSI) and Massachusetts House Bill #746.
- Edgartown Great Pond level warranted an opening but there was a gale Friday and storm weather continued to be an obstacle. The Oysters in the Great Pond were fairly small and Paul Bagnall recommended they be left to grow for another year.

OLD BUSINESS

Bay Scallop Season & Upcoming Hearing

- Staff reported about 20 limits (taking about 4 hrs.) during the first 2 days of the scallop season however there was a general consensus among the fishermen that it was not likely last; and there was not a lot of seed for next year's crop among the drags.

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NEW BUSINESS

Town Meeting Articles, 2020 Budget Season (See below: Meetings/Events.)

The deadline for funding warrant articles was December 2nd so Paul Bagnall would submit them to the Committee at the next meeting. The Articles usually comprised:

- the \$44,000 propagation article,
- Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group dues, and
- acceptance of gifts/donations.
- In view of a new Town vehicle policy, Paul Bagnall suggested the Shellfish  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck be shifted to the Lifeguards if the Town would purchase a new Shellfish truck, otherwise the Department would continue with the current truck for one more year.

Kite Boarding Update (See 6/18/19 Minutes p.2-3.)

The kite-boarders had observed the guidelines in general and had come to an agreement with The Trustees of Reservation (TTOR). Other groups guidelines were being clarified to read "neither kite nor board" shall come within 150 ft. of...

- In a meeting with Ed Handy, Harbormaster Charlie Blair and Conservation Agent Jane Varkonda, concerns were raised over the amount of boat traffic beaching on The Trustees of Reservation (TTOR) bird sanctuary, despite symbolic fencing and keep off signage. The boats dropped anchor in the Cape Pogue Gut and sometimes churned sand with propellers at low tide. A recent abutter kept a boat count (see documents on file), which reached as many as 167 boats a day during high season, in two shifts: morning and afternoon, sometimes 70-80 boats at a time. The Committee discussed:

- anchor damage to the Gut bottom, delicate eelgrass and shellfish habitat which supplied as much as 10% of the State's bay scallop harvest;
- lack of bathroom facilities that would further affect water quality and bird habitat;
- some incredulity about the boat counts;
- better patrolling by TTOR to protect the beach;
- better patrolling by the Harbormaster—requiring additional staff and funding;
- possible District of Critical Planning Concern (DCPC) designation implications;
- unintended consequences of dispersing the boat traffic without a designated beach location;
- overuse of Cape Pogue as a growing problem.

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE THAT CONSTABLE PAUL BAGNALL RAISE THE ISSUE AT THEIR NEXT MEETING OF THE MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO HARBORMASTER CHARLIE BLAIR.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Levi Flanders requested an early opening to the Sengekontacket oyster season in case the scallop season was poor. Staff had no objections (see below: Actions) and noted the oysters should be

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removed to complete the nitrogen reduction process. There was a single year's crop available and Levi Flanders testified to an established market.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Marine Advisory - 4:00PM, Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish Public Hearing - 4:30PM, Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at the Library
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesdays, December 3 & 17, 2019 at the Library
- Board of Selectmen/Blake Transfer - 4:00PM, Monday, December 9, 2019 at Town Hall
- Annual Town Report deadline - Tuesday, December 31, 2019
- MV Oyster Fest - May 8 & 9, 2020 at the MV Museum

ADJOURNMENT

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:09PM; MADELINE FISHER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done:**

- Paul - contact Micah Agnoli re: wait list (Jason Bennett lot)
- Paul - attend 11/13/19 Marine Advisory Meeting
- November Agendas
  - Minutes: 11/5/19
  - FY21 Warrant Articles/Budget
  - Scallop Season Recommendation
  - Jason Bennett License Status
  - Sengekontaktet December Oyster Season

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 11/5/19
- 15 p. of photos of summer Katama Bay traffic and 2 p. of calendar counts (July & August)

**WAIT LIST AS OF 10/1/19**

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|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. Daniel Gilkes | <del>10/4/16</del> | 5. Evan & Andrea Donnelly | 9/19/17 |
| 2. Micah Agnoli  | 6/21/17            | 6. Clinton Fisher         | 9/19/17 |
| 3. Adam Castro   | 9/5/17             | 7. Lila Fischer           | 1/16/18 |
| 4. Noah Scheffer | <del>9/5/17</del>  | 8. Liam Cosgrove          | 9/17/19 |