# Edgartown Shellfish Committee Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 4:30PM Edgartown Public Library

Present: Chair - Christian Thornton, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith, Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison, Jason Mallory,

Others: Clinton Fisher, Levi Flanders, Steve Kuehne,

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 NOVEMBER 5, 2019 MINUTES: MADELINE FISHER AND RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

### CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Scalloping was fairly good with fisherman catching about 18 limits a day in about 3 hours.
- Staff had finished Major's Cove Oyster Farm air-drying and winter shut down, removing buoys and putting cages on long lines.
- Otherwise they were working on boat maintenance.
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE THE LEFT SIDE OF THE CAPE POGUE GUT TO COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING, IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE EELGRASS BEDS.
- Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall brought the Committee concerns on Cape Pogue Gut tourist season boat traffic to the Marine Advisory Committee meeting (see 11/5/19 Minutes p.2). Various options were discussed including forbidding all anchorage, however it was agreed that both Harbormaster and The Trustees Of Reservation needed to step up enforcement.
- Edgartown Great Pond was opened Saturday November 16th and was still open. Paul Bagnall attended a Selectmen meeting that included Emily Reddington and a Pond Association Board member discussion on scheduling of the Pond openings.

## PUBLIC HEARING ON 2019-2020 BAY SCALLOP & OYSTER SEASONS

The Hearing was declared open at 4:38PM.

- There was general agreement that the scallop season would only last a few more weeks.
- There was a request to open the Sengekontacket oyster season in early December.
- Fishermen could commercially fish scallops and oysters on the same day.
- Staff proposed changing to a count limit to promote taking larger, more marketable oysters, while discouraging small oyster takings to foster better sets (see 2/6/18 Minutes p.1-2).

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- Staff reminded fishermen that, unlike last year, there was only a single year's crop available.
- CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO OPEN THE SENGEKONTACKET POND OYSTER SEASON ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019.
- AT TEN (10) ONE HUNDRED (100) COUNT OYSTER BAGS PER DAY,
- FIVE (5) DAYS PER WEEK, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY;
- AND ALL OTHER RULES AND REGULATION APPLY; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, • NAYS, • ABSTENTIONS.
- THE SCALLOP SEASON PUBLIC HEARING WAS CONTINUED TO THE NEXT MEETING.
- THE OYSTER SEASON PUBLIC HEARING WAS CLOSED AT 4:46PM.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Town Meeting Articles (See documents on file.)

- The current truck would be transferred to the Parks Department and a new truck requested for the Deputies (\$30,000).
- Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) dues were level for the third year at \$38,000.
- The standard Article to accept gifts/grants would be submitted.
- Some years ago the Department requested \$23,000 to clean out Herring Creek and remove the phragmites (see II/15/16 Minutes p.2), but found the money was not enough to cover the work, so this year another \$20,000 was requested—if it was not approved a smaller project would be implemented.
- The Department would propose an article to repair the Town Barn ice machine—if f it was not accepted repairs would be attempted.
- The \$44,000 Committee Propagation Article included:
- \$2,800 for administration, \$10,000 for the Chappaquiddick Nursery,
- \$6,750 for Major's Cove oyster farm, \$11,500 for the Quahog Relay
- \$2,000 for culch, \$5,000 to move scallop seed,
- \$500 for quahog seed, \$1,050 for scallop spat bags, and
- **\$4**,400 for testing.
- CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 WARRANT ARTICLES AS PRESENTED IN TIME FOR THE DEADLINE: RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Town Report - See below: Meetings/Events

#### Meetings/Events

- 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, 2010
- MV Oyster Fest May 8 & 9, 2020 at the MV Museum

# Edgartown Shellfish Committee November 19, 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

• RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:50PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### Actions To Be Done:

- December Agendas
- Minutes: 11/19/19
- Jason Bennett License Status

## Documents on File:

- Agenda 11/19/19
- 2020 Annual Town Meeting Article (6 p.) 11/20/19

## WAIT LIST AS OF 10/1/19

1. Daniel Gilkes	10/4/10	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	9/5/17	8. Liam Cosgrove	9/17/19

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