

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, January 2, 2018, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:31PM. Everyone welcomed back Les Baynes.

MINUTES

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 19, 2017 MINUTES: LES BAYNES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – LES BAYNES** due to absence.

CONSTABLES/DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Frigid weather was the determining factor:
 - barring scalloping for the eighth consecutive day;
 - postponing the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) visit on dredging;
 - freezing the cable on one of the Carolina skiffs (the other was out of the water);
 - icing in the dredge at Cape Pogue.

Staff was working on projects at the Town Barn.

- Shellfish Constable and Biologist Paul Bagnall would attend an Aquaculture Convention in Milford, CT. January 8th - 10th.

OLD BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) Update (See below: Meetings/Events.)

Members could attend the Finance Committee/Selectmen Shellfish Budget/articles hearing.

Town Report due January 8, 2018

- Paul Bagnall reviewed last year's report as a reference.

• Aquaculture License Issues (See below: Actions.)

(See Minutes: 11/21/17, 12/5/17 p.1-3, & 12/19/17 p.1-2.) *(Recorder's Note: the discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

- Les Baynes spoke strongly for the continued expansion of aquaculture citing:
 - jobs and a living for those on the wait list;
 - favorable blogs and editorials;
 - the difficulties of Committee members facing political action;
 - general Town positive attitude toward aquaculture;
 - economic advantage to the Town.

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He suggested the Committee declare a successful Hearing and move forward. The Committee discussed the Public Hearing in terms of strategic planning to support the industry, considering next steps and responses to issues raised.

- The Hearing took some of the controversy off Noah Scheffer, who would otherwise have had to face the public at the Selectmen hearing.
- The Town Report was a good platform to present the issue in positive language.
- The Shellfish Committee could report to the Selectmen on their Hearing, and further studies.
- Those on the Aquaculture Wait List should be invited to Shellfish Committee meetings to contribute to the conversation.
- As an economic engine aquaculture provided employment for 2-3 people per farm, bringing in about \$2,000,000 per year or \$180,000 per farm. This was multiplied into the economy,
 - allowing families to stay on the Island;
 - funding work by other Island businesses;
 - increasing restaurant menus and profits.
- Katama cage culture was remarkably efficient—although one of the smallest percentage areas Katama was one of the top four oyster producers in the State.
- Members could investigate and respond to issues such as: navigation, windmills, etc.
- Aquaculture was an important part of the local food movement.
- Initial farms could be run as pilots to gauge impact on the water and the neighborhood.
- Aquaculture provided an essential public service by-product by promoting nitrogen remediation at \$4/lb. more organically than the sewage plant at \$40/lb. (New York City was using oyster aquaculture as nitrogen remediation in Jamaica Bay at the foot of Wall Street.)
- The shift from wild fishing to aquaculture showed the Town retaining its fishing heritage by adapting to change in keeping with worldwide trends.

NEW BUSINESS (See below: Meetings/Events.)

Having achieved the goal of a new dredge, Les Baynes was stepping down as the Shellfish Committee representative to the Dredge Committee (currently: Chair Ed Handy, Les Baynes, Hal Kelly, Dudley Levick, Peter Vincent). The Committee met most Thursdays on: permitting, planning, sale of material, aiding the Great Pond dredge, etc.

- Mr. Levick often protested the Great Pond opening schedule.

Meetings/Events

- Town Report deadline – Monday, January 8, 2018
- FinCom/Selectmen Shellfish FY19 Budget – 4:15PM Friday, January 12, 2018 Town Hall
- Dredge Com. – 4:00PM, Thursdays, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2018 Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish – 4:30PM, Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at the Library
- Edg. Shellfish – 4:30PM, Tuesdays, February 6 & 20, 2018 2017 at the Library

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ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:34PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- All - consider Shellfish Com. representation on the Dredge Com.
- All - attend 1/12/17 Budget Hearing @ 4:15PM if interested.
- Christian/Ryan - include aquaculture expansion in Town Report (deadline 1/5-8/18).
- Christian - request Shellfish Com. Aquaculture Report be placed on Selectmen agenda.
- Christian/Paul/Rob - invite Aquaculture Wait List to Shellfish Committee meetings.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 1/2/18