

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Acting Chair - Ryan Smith, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines,
Others: Arno Ewing, Dudley Levick,
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:39PM.

CONSTABLE'S /DEPUTIES' REPORT

Bay Scallop Season (See 1/16/18 Minutes p.2.)

12-15 fishermen were still going scalloping. Staff was waiting for the tides to gage wash-up volume. There was no appetite for extending the season.

- Staff were busy on equipment, scraping floats, quahog rafts and working on shell bags.
- Steve Handy was on vacation (no other contractors could be found) and winds were still blowing 40-60 knots out of the east. Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall engaged Steve Handy for first thing Monday, weather permitting.
- Emma Greenbeach would repeat her phragmites presentation at this month's Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) meeting.
- There was a trend in ribbed mussels nitrogen remediation, but they were not easy to spawn.

OLD BUSINESS

Oyster Season (See 2/6/18 Minutes p.2.)

Staff considered the proposal to change from washbaskets to 100 counts (see 2/6/18 Minutes p.1-2) but for the time being staff preferred to remain with washbaskets because enforcement would be difficult, especially if about 20 fishermen appeared needing two sets of 105 counts each.

- At the moment the entire State was closed to shellfishing due to the heavy winter rains. Sengekontacket/Anthiers Pond opening would depend on spring rainfall.

MINUTES

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE:**
 - **FEBRUARY 6, 2018 MINUTES AS AMENDED, AND**
 - **FEBRUARY 20, 2018 MINUTES AS WRITTEN;**
- RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—LES BAYNES due to absence.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Paul Bagnall would re-distribute the 2004 Edgartown Great Pond Management Plan. Dudley Levick of the Great Pond Foundation asked the Committee to consider 4 short openings rather

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than 2 long ones (see below: Actions). Issues were:

- dredging for better Pond flushing on openings;
- difficulty and expense of closing a strong opening and uselessness of closing a trickle;
- diminishing flushing returns after the first 3-5 days;
- openings impact on the fresh water lens under the Great Pond and the entire Island;
- recent report on the good health of the Pond (see 2/20/18 Minutes p.1);
- Herring Creek, Pautuckset and Great Pond drainage and history;
- loss of herring, constructive or destructive algae blooms and Pond low points in 1993 and 2008;
- impact of increased sewer system and treatment plant.

- There was a discussion on the responsibilities of the Dredge Committee and Ed Handy's voluntary work above and beyond the call, in knowledgeable planning, directing crews, shepherding permits, inspecting the new dredge before delivery, etc. The Dredge had paid for itself in sand material sold to Cow Bay that went into the Town General Fund. The Dredge Committee was considering work for Tisbury and Cow Bay. The job was complex, expert and time consuming enough to require a Town Department or to at least have paid staff. The Committee met every week.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesdays, March 20 & April 3, 2018 2017 at the Library
- Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday, April 10, 2017
- Dredge Com. - 4:05PM, Thursdays at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:44PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - make Committee copies of Edgartown Great Pond Management Plan.
- Agenda Items:
 - Dredge Committee Representation
 - Oyster Season
 - Edgartown Great Pond Opening
- Staff - get fishermen's input on oyster season dates/limits
- Staff - survey Edgartown Great Pond oysters.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 3/6/18