

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, April 3, 2018, 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: Francis Fisher Sr. Francis Fisher Jr. Dudley Levick,
Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:33PM.

CONSTABLE'S /DEPUTIES' REPORT

- The fleet had increased to 13 good oyster limits today and the markets seemed to be taking the catches. Edgartown Great Pond oyster season opened this afternoon.
- Today two scallop fishermen got full limits from far apart locations.

Bay Scallop Season (See documents on file & 3/20/18 Minutes p.2.)

Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall attended the Selectmen's meeting to present the Committee recommendation on the oyster and scallop seasons. They approved the oyster season but on the advice of Donald Benefit, did not allow any extension in Cape Pogue. The Committee expressed its surprise and frustration.

- Staff now found a greater number of scallops in most locations including the South end of Cape Pogue than they had thought at the last meeting when the extension was voted. In fact this seemed to be the case across the region including Nantucket, Aquinnah, Cape Cod, etc.
- Fishermen lost many days this year to weather and March was like a slow moving hurricane.
- The situation was complicated by this week's Selectmen's meeting being canceled for lack of quorum—so that two weeks of fishing was lost.
- The Committee protested the departure from proper procedure, both by Donald Benefit, who, as a former Committee member, knew to present his opinions to the Shellfish Committee; and by the Selectmen for putting the opinion of a single fishermen, over Shellfish Committee process, consideration and expertise. Fishermen complained to Committee members. The Selectmen and Donald Benefit received push back.
- The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) questioned Paul Bagnall on the status of scallop seed, which was scarce, indicating a mediocre harvest next year—possibly finished by December.
- The Committee discussed possible actions and agreed to attend the next Selectmen's meeting (see below: Meetings/Events). Paul Bagnall suggested a boundary in Cape Pogue to protect the eelgrass. Staff would continue to monitor the situation and close areas as appropriate.

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO EXTEND THE COMMERCIAL SCALLOP SEASON TO SATURDAY APRIL 21st, 2018 IN ALL LOCATIONS INCLUDING SATURDAYS AT THREE (3) LEVEL WASHBASKETS PER DAY ALL OTHER REGULATIONS APPLY; MADELINE FISHER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

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NEW BUSINESS

Town Meeting Articles (See 11/7/17 Minutes p.3.)

The articles were fairly standard:

Article #38 - \$44,000 for the Shellfish Committee as administered by the Department,

Article #39 - \$38,000 for the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) assessment,

Article #40 - \$11,000 for a new outboard for the donated skiff,

Article #41 - to accept any gifts or grants.

Paul Bagnall would be ready to speak to the articles and invited Committee members to join him as they wished.

OLD BUSINESS

- Edgartown Great Pond was still open, although it was starting to hook and would likely close in a week or so. The exchange was about at equilibrium and salinity at 28 ppt.
- Dudley Levick, sent an open letter to the Selectmen and referred to the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) report and scientific papers (see documents on file).
 - The previous discussion was repeated (see 3/20/18 Minutes p.2-3):
 - closing the cut, regular scheduling, oyster life cycle, history, dropping the fresh water reservoir, etc. He also argued that the false herring were detrimental to the Pond.
 - The Committee repeated their arguments regarding: not tampering with Pond improvements, history, treatment plant nitrogen remediation, cost and difficulties of closing the cut, etc. For example, Lesley Baynes recalled the attempt to close the Katama ramp cut when the tide blew huge amounts of sand and debris away in moment.
 - Although the Pond had good and bad years, in general it was making progress.
 - Mr. Levick requested an agenda item, transparent discussion and written response which he, in turn, would respond to in writing.
 - The Committee thanked him for his care and love of Great Pond and credited his successful Management Plan that established guidelines for the cuts. They would take the matter under future advisement, but declined to change the current practice at this time, citing the Minutes as their written record.
- The Dredge Committee requested Lesley Baynes' letter of resignation and a letter on Ryan Smith's appointment (see below: Actions). The Shellfish Committee thanked Mr. Baynes for his long and dedicated service.
- **NICK TURNER ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF DREDGE COMMITTEE ALTERNATE.**

NEW BUSINESS

- The Dredge Committee asked for dredging priorities and there was a general discussion.
 - Les Baynes noted that Bylaws gave ultimate dredge priority authority to the Shellfish Committee.

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- Paul Bagnall recommended using the big dredge in Edgartown Great Pond to eliminate the center fan of the “Y” in the channel. This was the best beach nourishment material.
- It was vital to regularly nourish Fuller Street Beach in order to retain Town ownership since, if the beach receded to the markers, it would revert to abutter ownership.
- The Committee suggested Steve Handy be hired to dredge the Great Pond sluiceway.
- There was a discussion on erosion and littoral drift cause and effect along the State Beach groins, Eel Pond and Anthiers/Sengekontacket, including Cow Bay’s purchase of sand and loss to erosion.

MINUTES

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 20, 2018 MINUTES AS AMENDED FOR SPELLING; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—NICK TURNER** due to absence.

Meetings/Events

- Selectmen’s Meeting - 4:00PM, Monday, April 9, 2018 at Town Hall
- Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday, April 10, 2018
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesdays, April 17, 2018 & May 1, 2018 at the Library
- Dredge Com. - 4:05PM, Thursdays at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:59PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- All - attend Selectmen’s meeting 4PM, Monday 4/9/18.
- Marni - Dredge Committee - email resignation & draft and email appointment to Kristi Rose

Documents on File:

- Agenda 4/3/18
- Massachusetts Estuaries Project excerpt Figure VI-7...
- Ecology, Ecological Society of America Abstract 1979... 1/16/11
- Shellfish Update 3/26/18
- Levick letter re: Edgartown Great Pond (3 p.) 3/2/18