

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, May 1, 2018, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Chair -Christian Thornton, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher, Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Jack Blake, Emily Reddington
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM. (*Recorder's Note: the discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

MINUTES

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 3, 2018 MINUTES AS AMENDED; LES BAYNES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—CHRISTIAN THORNTON** due to absence.

CONSTABLE'S/DEPUTIES' REPORT

Bay Scallop Season

The season was over; a couple fishermen got limits on the last day.

Oyster Season Update

Today was busy on Edgartown Great Pond with 6 limits, although usually there were about 3 per day. Things were going well with no enforcement issues. It was hard work as catches had to be culled for 4" fat teardrop shaped oysters without wormholes—at 20¢ each.

- The Pond was fairly shallow due to the continued opening (see below) so fishermen were able to wade out further and although dragging was forbidden raking from a boat was allowed. The Committee and staff assured Emily Reddington that practices were not detrimental to either the bottom or wildlife.

• The Major's Cove Oyster Farm was up and running. Staff was air-drying and collecting/repairing equipment dragged and flipped by storm/winter damage. About 10 of the 120 cages were crushed. The upweller was in the parking lot.

• The State notified the Department that Sengekontacket Pond, Edgartown Great Pond and the Harbor passed water sampling testing. Eel Pond was seasonally closed as usual starting today. Cormorants, geese and Major's Cove continued to be issues in Sengekontacket.

OLD BUSINESS

• Edgartown Great Pond was still open after 7 weeks. The cut was very large but snaked around. The Pond was well drained with about a one-hour lag in tides.

- The Committee would consider its response to Dudley Levick at a later date (see 4/3/18 Minutes p.2).

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- Thomas “Boise” Rogers was taking steps towards working his lot (see 11/7/17 Minutes p.2-3), buying an appropriate boat, moving forward on about 50,000 partially grown seed that did not require an upweller. This was considered a reasonable starting point but it raised the issue of what constituted active commercial use of a lot (see below: Actions).
- The Committee attended the Selectmen’s Meeting (see 4/3/18 Minutes p.1) and Shellfish Constable and Biologist Paul Bagnall requested they reconsider extending the season, especially as staff found greater numbers of scallops than previously thought. The Selectmen granted the request and acknowledged their previous action as needing more consultation.
 - Paul Bagnall also asked them consider quahogging access from Felix Neck when negotiating the canoe/kayak rental contract.

NEW BUSINESS

Aquaculture Raft Size

Scott Castro was interested in expanding aquaculture raft dimension limits beyond the current 650 sq. ft. The Committee agreed to wait for his presentation but fielded comments:

- aesthetics of view and good neighbors on Chappaquiddick;
- smaller rafts prone to stacking cages, another sight/aesthetics problem,
- many farmers currently under by 200 to 150 sq. ft but likely to build new rafts to the limit;
- letting current farmers build out to the limit before raising it.

Summer Schedule (See below: Meetings/Events.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- The Committee cordially welcomed founding aquaculturist Jack Blake. He would have to sell his farm soon and was before the Committee to ask about transfer issues. He was currently working with Dan Gilkes, and hoping to take him on as a partner, continue working with him and slowly phase out of the partnership. The Committee was very interested in the process as basically constituting an apprenticeship and considered:
 - Dan Gilke’s position fairly high on the Wait List;
 - revising aquaculture regulations to allow transfer to partners;
 - establishment of Limited Liability Corporations (LLC) requiring ownership and management by residents;
 - licenses granted to individuals not corporations;
 - length of the partnership before transfer;
 - partnership/LLC terms as the responsibility of the fishermen involved;
 - issues of not closing opportunities to Edgartown residents on the Wait List
 - transfer regulations requiring all gear be off the lot (or sold to the new owner) within 60 days.
- Madeline Fisher was interested in commemorating her father, who died 4 years ago today, with a carved rock memorial. The Committee had no objections and suggested she check navigational issues before presenting the proposal to the Selectmen.

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Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at the Library
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at the Library
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at the Library
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at the Library
- Dredge Com. - 4:05PM, Thursdays at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:28PM; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul/Staff - inform Boise Rogers of Committee's oversight re: use of his lot.
 - Paul/Madeline - consider any navigational impact of Sandy Fisher memorial.
 - May/June Agenda
- Aquaculture Issues:
- Raft Size
 - Partnership Transfer
 - Definition of Commercial Use of Lot

Documents on File:

- Agenda 5/1/18