

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, May 15, 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: Scott Castro
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:33PM. (*Recorder's Note: the discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

MINUTES

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

CONSTABLE'S /DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Staff cleaned up the Chappaquiddick Nursery and checked the saltwater runs.
- The Major's Cove Oyster farm upweller was being installed but was not yet stocked—which was usually done the first week of June. Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall now pre-paid the vendor, and picked up seed for a number of others including Wareham.

Oyster Season

The season produced a steady 4-6 limits per day and was over on Friday, May 11th. There were still a couple oyster floats in the State field (possibly Dan Donnelly's and Sandy Fisher's upweller), which should be promptly removed now that the ice had abated for the season.

- Paul Bagnall attended the State Vibrio conference and the new regulations were on the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) website. Re-submersion time after air-drying was reduced from 14 to 10 days—Ryan Smith and Nick Turner were hesitant about the change.
- Federal authorities continued their push for States to train growers.
- Paul Bagnall would be attending another conference this week to form a working group on Federal and DMF concerns about forbidding bay scalloping in eelgrass.
- The Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association (MSOA) awarded Shellfish Constable of the Year to Tisbury Shellfish Constable Danielle Ewart.
- Edgartown Great Pond closed Wednesday after a 2-month opening—paid for by the Great Pond Foundation. Depending on rain levels the next opening was likely to be in September.

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OLD BUSINESS

Aquaculture Requests (See 5/1/18 Minutes p.2.)

The Committee revisited three issues.

- Broadening the transfer of a lot lease to a business partner was reconsidered. The Committee sympathized with founding aquaculturist Jack Blake and other growers who invested substantial funds and hard work into farms that might have to be passed on to an unknown person. On the other hand the change involved tampering with the wait list process and with the principle of excluding/discouraging large corporate enterprise.

- This led to the increasingly urgent problem of accountability. It was agreed that the partnership/apprenticeship afforded much needed assurance that a lease/license holder had the knowledge and experience needed to operate a farm. There were now two fallow lots, Boise Rogers, who seemed to be about to start operations, and the Friedman/Sharples lot (see 5/16/17 Minutes p.1), which was not only inactive, but retained the original un-harvested valuable crop.

- The Committee could interview wait list candidates either when they entered the wait list or when the lot was about to be awarded, asking about knowledge, business plans, etc.

- DMF set lease/license rates so they could not be increased to discourage capricious sign ups.

- There was a Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative (see 4/18/17 Minutes p.1) analyzing surveys of 57 town aquaculture regulations with the goal of recommending ways to streamline the growing industry—although, towns were suspicious of losing local jurisdiction.

- The Committee was interested in viewing growers' annual reports (required at lease/license renewal)—which could be a means of monitoring commercial operations.

- Limits could be drafted for Wait List refusals and for unused lots.

- The Committee encouraged the industry as an employer, local food source, and benefit to the entire community.

- Scott Castro requested that raft size be increased by 120 sq. ft. to allow him better raft configuration and workspace.

- Jack Blake set the original limit as the largest raft size at that time.

- Chappaquiddick abutters had been very supportive but growers were sensitive to impinging on their view and discussed cage height, raft dimensions and top-heavy logistics.

- Rafts included canopies (to comply with shade regulation) and other equipment.

- Navigable passage between farms had to be maintained.

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO CHANGE AQUACULTURE REGULATIONS AS FOLLOWS:**

- **INCREASE THE RAFT SIZE LIMIT BY ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) SQUARE FEET TO SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY (770) SQUARE FEET; AND**

- **LIMIT RAFT LENGTH TO NO GREATER THAN SIXTY FIVE (65) FT.; AND**

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- TO IMPOSE A HEIGHT LIMIT OF TWO (2) STACKED CAGES NOT TO EXCEED A HEIGHT OF EIGHT (8) FEET TOTAL (NOT INCLUDING CANOPY OR ACCESSORIES);
CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

- Scott Castro would apply for one of the remaining Middle Flat lots, to shift animals in case of a Katama closing and to attempt small cultivation of seaweed—mussel cultivation was only profitable on a large-scale basis.

NEW BUSINESS

Summer Schedule/Staff (See below: Meetings/Events.)
Ralph Peckham and Ralph Savory would return as summer staff.

Meetings/Events

- 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 5:45PM; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - suggest Jack Blake approach Ray Augur re: Wait List position.
- Paul/Christian - contact Kristi Rose re: Committee access to aquaculture annual reports

Documents on File:

- Agenda 5/15/18