

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, August 21, 2018, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

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

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

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR CHRISTIAN THORNTON TO SIGN THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISH APPLICATION FOR PETE JACKSON, JR.

Scott Castro was interested in a Middle Flats lot in case of vibrio in Katama, and to experiment with proto-oysters and sugar kelp. The Shellfish Department informed Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) of the location of 10 lots in 25-30 ft. depths, with fairly strong currents, which were individually surveyed as they were leased (this would be the 7th). Because sugar kelp was a floating crop, Army Corp of Engineers permission was also needed.

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR CHRISTIAN THORNTON TO SIGN THE MIDDLE FLATS AQUACULTURE APPLICATION FOR SCOTT CASTRO.

MINUTES

- CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 17, 2018 MINUTES; RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION.

OLD BUSINESS

Aquaculture Issues (See Minutes: 5/1/18 p.2 & 5/15/18 p.2.)

- Jack Blake reported he left five messages for Ray Auger (who was first on the Wait List—see 11/20/12 Minutes p.1) to see if he was interested in a partnership, with only one response, which Jack missed. Jack Blake estimated his aquaculture investment at about \$250,000. The Board reviewed previous discussions concerning transfer of aquaculture lots and aquaculture waitlist procedures (see below: Actions) along with the necessity of passing on farming knowledge/skills.

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
August 21, 2018

2

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO SEND A REGISTERED LETTER TO RAY AUGER STATING THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS ANTICIPATING A PLOT BECOMING AVAILABLE AND REQUESTING A RESPONSE WITHIN 30 DAYS.

- Deputies reported that Thomas “Boise” Rogers started with about 30,000 seed and was building inventory, working his lot everyday (see 11/7/17 Minutes p.2-3).

CONSTABLES/DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Staff was working hard on propagation: oysters, scallops and quahogs. The first round of bay scallop seed was dumped in Cape Pogue, and the next round received from the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG). There was more gravel spread in Katama for a large quahog crop from a double MVSG seed shipment. The Sengekontacket Oyster farm was also doing well—however oysters in the Sengekontacket family area and Eel Pond showed evidence of oyster drill infestation.
- The Chappaquiddick Nursery season was finished and the seawater pump turned off. Over the off-season the Department would work with MVSG on replacing outdated plumbing.
- The Katama season was still going strong. Sengekontacket was opened and then closed after the rainfall.
- Staff spread 16,500 oysters from Sandy Fisher's set in Eel Pond and estimated there were still 3 more strings of 15 cages each (see 7/17/18 Minutes p.1-2).
- Staff participated in another round of water quality sampling.
- Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall reminded the Committee that the Department was one deputy short and commended staff for extra work, heavy lifting and enforcement. Thanks also went to Friends of Sengekontacket (FOS) for two strong interns.

OLD BUSINESS

New Deputy Hiring Procedure (See 7/17/18 Minutes p.1.)

The position was being advertised with a September 4th deadline, after which the candidate list would be submitted to the Committee. Edgartown was becoming more formal in its hiring procedures. The final decision was scheduled for the last week in September in time for the opening of bay scallop season and an upcoming Massachusetts Maritime shellfish officers certification class.

NEW BUSINESS

2018-2019 Bay Scallop Season

- The Bay Scallop season public hearing would be advertised for the second meeting in September. It was not expected to be a banner year despite MVSG seeding of about 1.2 to 1.5 million. Fishermen could at least fall back on a Sengekontacket commercial oyster season.
- There seemed to be a decent crop of steamers coming along.

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
August 21, 2018

3

- Edgartown Great Pond was opened yesterday at 3 ft. above sea level under perfect conditions and closed immediately, signifying steady changes due to sea rise.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at the Library
- Edg. Shellfish - Bay Scallop Hearing - 4:30PM, Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at the Library
- Dredge Com. - 4:05PM, Thursdays at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:08PM; MADELINE FISHER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - post 9/18/18 Public Hearing
- September Agenda - Aquaculture License Regulations
 - Marni - send Aquaculture Regulations and Wait List procedures
- Paul - send candidate list to Committee.
- Christian/All - sit in on Department interviews as you wish.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 8/21/18