

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith,
Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison, Jason Mallory,
Others: Town Administrator James Hagerty,
Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:31PM.

MINUTES

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 MINUTES AS AMENDED: RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION.**

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- Propagation was going well; for example about a million quahogs, more than in previous years.
- Following up on a report, the Deputies stopped some unlicensed shellfishers taking seed and everything else in Sengekontacket, dumped their catch and referred them to Town Hall for the proper license. However instead of returning to Town they went in the opposite direction and waited for the Deputies to leave, allegedly so they could pick up their catch again. They were served with a \$200 non-criminal fine—which they are unlikely to pay, but the Deputies informed the police to keep a watch on their vehicle.
- The Committee mourned the loss of Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby President and retired Edgartown School Principal Ed Jerome, who died today while shellfishing.

OLD BUSINESS

• Bay Scallop Season Hearing

Staff surveyed Cape Pogue for the upcoming scallop season, and while there was still a lot of eelgrass that would remain until the next big storm, the scallop seed set signaled a low-yield year. Seed harvested from Cape Pogue spawned well in the Chappaquiddick Nursery, but the wild set was very slow to mature.

- Scallop expert Clyde McKenzie came from New Jersey to survey the waters once a month, but was likely to retire in the next year or so. Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall and staff recommended a conservative season with an early start.

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO:**

- **OPEN THE RECREATION/FAMILY BAY SCALLOP SEASON MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018 AS USUAL AT ONE (1) LEVEL TEN (10) GALLON WASHBASKETS INCLUDING SHELLS PER WEEK; AND**
- **OPEN ALL AREAS TO THE COMMERCIAL SCALLOP SEASON MONDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2018;**

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- **WITH A COMMERCIAL LIMIT AT THREE (3) LEVEL TEN (10) GALLON WASHBASKETS INCLUDING SHELLS PER DAY, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, AND**
- **NO DRAGGING IN CAPE POGUE BEFORE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018;**
- **AND ALL OTHER RULES AND REGULATION APPLY; NICK TURNER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
- The recommendation would be on the September 24th Selectmen agenda.
- The Committee welcomed the new Town Administrator James Hagerty and the newly hired Shellfish Deputy Jason Mallory (see 8/4/18 Minutes p.1).

• Aquaculture Issues

Jason Bennett told Warren Gaines that he was looking to release his aquaculture lot license and sell his crop and equipment in a fairly short time frame. Recent wait list license activity brought into further highlight the need to review/revisit procedure:

- May 2017 - Sharples,
- September 2017 Scheffer/Cape Pogue,
- May 2018 - Blake /Gilkes,
- September 2018 - Smith
- October 2018 - Bennett

Meetings/Events

- BOS Vote on Scallop Season - 4:00PM Monday, September 24, 2018 at Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, October 2 & 16, 2018 at the Library

ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:50PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - contact Selectmen re: 9/24/18 meeting agenda Bay Scallop Season vote
- October Agendas
- Aquaculture License/Wait List Regulations
- Proposals for Dredge Committee

Documents on File:

- Agenda 9/18/18
- Bagnall email