

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith, Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Jason Mallory,
Others: Micah Agnoli, Jack Blake, George Joubert, Erin Morris,
Lauren Scheffer, (Isaac Scheffer),
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 APPLICATIONS FOR JACK BLAKE, ERIN MORRIS, GEORGE JOUBERT, AND LAUREN SCHEFFER.

Applicants were reminded signed applications had to be submitted to Town Hall within 48 hrs.

MINUTES

- CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 16, 2018 MINUTES: RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS—MADELINE FISHER AND NICK TURNER due to absence.

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Commercial scalloping opened Monday, with 28 limits some of them short (2 rather than 3 washbaskets). A couple boats came in about 9:30AM but most came in around 12:00 to 1:00PM. So far prices were good and there were no problems but staff expected a short season.
- Air drying and winter preparation continued at the Major's Cove Oyster Farm.
- Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) was doing routine sampling of the whole town.

NEW BUSINESS

(See documents on file.)

- Shellfish Constable and Biologist Paul Bagnall repeated his concerns on the DMF Bay Scallop Committee study on dragging (see 10/16/18 Minutes p.1), emphasizing the importance of differentiating drag trails from conch trails, old anchor lines, etc. The Committee discussed, the size of the boat being used, and the type, weight and number of drags. The team was coming to Edgartown for part of the study and Paul Bagnall hoped to hire an underwater photographer (about \$1,000) and possibly to utilize the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) drone for more accurate pictures.

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
November 6, 2018

2

• CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A GOPRO CAMERA OR EQUIVALENT UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT: NICK TURNER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• Paul Bagnall would attend a Town Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) workshop that would increase eligibility for State grant funds to remediate climate damage.

OLD BUSINESS

Articles for FY20 (See documents on file.)

• After a good year of appeals and Federal grants the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) level funded its dues at \$38,000.

• The Shellfish Committee Article was also level funded (as requested) at \$44,000 including, administration, Chappaquiddick Nursery, Major's Cove Oyster Farm, cultch spreading, scallop seed, spat bags, etc.

• The annual article authorizing the Department to accept gifts and grants allowed such things as the 100,000 additional seed received from Muskongus Commercial this year.

• The Department was requesting \$12,750 for a new shellfish boat outboard, and \$39,000 (list price) to replace the Shellfish 2013 pickup truck—although Paul Bagnall expected a group purchase price of \$24-26,000.

• CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 SHELLFISH ARTICLES FOR TOWN MEETING AS PRESENTED; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Katama Wait List Policy (See below: Actions.)

• The Board of Selectmen were considering a single transfer in the Smith/Smith/Smith request (see 9/4/18 Minutes p.2).

• As there was still no response from Ray Auger (see Minutes: 9/4/18 p.1 & 10/16/18 p.2) Jack Blake submitted a letter of request (see documents on file) to include Dan Gilkes on his aquaculture lease/license, which was up for renewal in December.

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE THAT SUFFICIENT RAY AUGER CONTACT ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN MADE AND THE RESPONSE DEADLINE HAD PASSED.

• CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPROVE THE ADDITION OF DAN GILKES TO JACK BLAKE'S AQUACULTURE LEASE/LICENSE CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE SMITH/SMITH/SMITH TRANSFER; NICK TURNER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION - RYAN SMITH due to conflict of interest.

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
November 6, 2018

3

- The Committee continued their exploration of waitlist policy (see 10/16/18 Minutes p.2)
- The top of the wait list was a valuable commodity as being one step away from having a lease.
- Jack Blake raised the issue of a Waquoit Bay lease taken over by an out-of-town firm by the purchase of the house, which made them a resident even though they didn't live there.
- The sizeable investment in gear continued to be an issue. Christian Thornton suggested that a 10 year lease/license would allow the owner to leverage the sale of his equipment through the option on the remainder of his lease. If the first person on the wait list refused the price, the owner could approach the next. If lump sum capital was not available a contract could include installment payments. However, this would make it more difficult for starting entrepreneurs.

NEW BUSINESS

Shellfish Committee Dredge representative Ryan Smith asked about the effect on shellfish of dredging the Narrows. Paul Bagnall considered that change stimulated scallop spawning and therefore the stronger current was likely to be beneficial.

- The Dredge Committee hoped to sell sand from Sengekontacket borrow areas to Cow Bay.
- The Edgartown Great Pond March 10th to May 9th spring opening covered two scheduled openings so the last 2018 cut was planned this weekend (November 10th-11th) if weather allowed.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, November 20 & December 4, 2018 at the Library

ADJOURNMENT

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:24PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - contact James Hagerty re: Smith and Castro transfers, and Blake/Gilkes joint license.
- Paul/Christian - ask Jack Blake to attend Committee meetings on aquaculture wait list issues.
- November Agenda
- Aquaculture License/Wait List Regulations

Documents on File:

- Agenda 11/6/18
- Shellfish Department November 6, 2018 2019 Annual Town Meeting Article
- Shellfish Department 2019 Annual Town Meeting Article - truck (11/6/18)
- Shellfish Department 2019 Annual Town Meeting Article - grants/gifts (11/6/18)
- Shellfish Department 2019 Annual Town Meeting Article - MVSG (11/6/18)
- Blake letter re: inclusion of Dan Gilkes on lease/license 10/22/18
- Bay Scallop Dredging Effects on Eelgrass: Project Update (18 p.) 10/11/18