

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Acting Chair – Ryan Smith, Les Baynes, Donald Benefit,
Coop Gilkes,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:35PM.

MINUTES

• LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 3, 2017 MINUTES AS AMENDED: COOP GILKES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

(The discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

- Bay Scallop Season Update
- Today's good weather brought out 27 attempts at limits—which were taking a minimum of about 4 hrs.
- A Shellfish Dept. hut was in construction on North Wharf (see 12/20/16 Minutes p.2) to centralize check-in. Half the boats came to this location anyway.
- The Committee discussed the remaining season. Usually there were about 12 boats out and staff estimated that limits or broken limits could last till mid-March.
- Staff consolidated Major's Cove oysters into about 100 cages and moved the 20 additional cages to the Town Fishermen's Depot lot. The cages were covered with heavy shipworm shells that had to be scraped off.
- Members complained that the Depot was becoming a casual repository for non-commercial boats, garbage, and landscaping equipment, such as bobcats parked in the middle of the road. The Committee noted that if Depot regulations were not enforced it would get worse.
- Staff reported requests for another Sengekontaktet commercial oyster season (see 11/3/15 Minutes p. 2). There were no objections, although the harvest would be less than last year's 3-year accumulation.
- There were also requests for an Edgartown Great Pond oyster season, as it was now quite full of oysters of all sizes. Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall felt commercial fishing could start in mid to late March and run through April. The Committee expressed some concern but Great Pond fishing was restricted to hand rakes.
- The steamer crop survived (see below: Actions).

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- Deputies gave out a number of written warnings and tutorials for seed to newcomers unfamiliar with regulations. Once informed all had come into compliance.
- The Deputies informed Sandy Fisher that he had to move his gear and build a raft capable of handling his oyster farm, and had written an incident report on the exchange. He was currently still involved with the State permitting issue (see 9/6/16 Minutes p.2).
- Mark Morris' court case was delayed by the lawyer. Paul Bagnall reported that after he criticized the lawyer for insufficient communications, the lawyer had been more accommodating and the next date was agreed (see below: Meetings/Events). Les Baynes would go to observe, and Paul Bagnall would have all appropriate regulations in hand.

- Schifter / Leland: Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) Response

(See 12/20/16 Minutes p.3.)

The matter was before the MVC but results were not yet known as Paul Bagnall was playing phone tag with MVC Water Resource Planner Sheri Casseau. The Department was unclear about testing Poucha Pond on an ongoing basis. The Selectmen were eager to close the matter but the Department pointed out that this was not an inordinate delay since it took the Shifter/Leland party two years to initiate testing.

NEW BUSINESS

- Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) FinCom Budget Meeting

The Chappaquiddick Nursery needed some capital repairs, such as windows. Marsh restoration was not budgeted, although Herring Creek might be included. The Finance Committee might not request a hearing for level funded Department budgets.

- The Committee discussed current dredging projects, Fuller St. Beach restoration, sand storage and sale, etc. The Katama Channel was well dug in time for the Town Community Preservation Act (CPA) funded engineering study (see 2/2/16 Minutes p.2). Dredging was a necessity that couldn't be ultimately won but that at least prevented shoreline loss.

ADJOURNMENT

- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:22PM; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, February 7 & 21, 2017 at Edg. Public Library
- Morris Court Appeal- 10:00AM Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at the Courthouse

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ADJOURNMENT

• COOP GILKES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:20PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul – put steamers/family area expansion on Agenda for next meeting.
- Staff – check ownership and move bobcat from Fisherman’s Depot.
- All – view video of Old Man Sandy Fisher at MV Museum

Documents on File:

- Agenda 1/17/17