

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Acting Chair – Ryan Smith, Donald Benefit, Coop Gilkes,
Shellfish Dept. Rob Morrison,
Others: Sandy Fisher, Great Pond Foundation – Emily Reddington,
Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:33PM.

MINUTES

• **COOP GILKES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 7, 2017 MINUTES: DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – RYAN SMITH** due to absence.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Board of Selectmen upheld the Shellfish Committee recommendation on Sandy Fisher's aquaculture license (see 3/7/17 Minutes p.3). Sandy Fisher maintained he didn't know the rules and that the Committee had always been lenient.

OLD BUSINESS

Sandy Fisher Aquaculture License Issues

Sandy Fisher, the Committee and staff discussed how he could comply with the Selectmen action. He repeated several times in the course of the meeting that he wasn't aware of the regulations. The Committee explained again:

- all equipment had to be on the 1 acre lot or at his home,
- the lot had to be marked with corner buoys,
- total raft area could not exceed 650 sq. ft. and could not swing into the buffer zone,
- all animals had to be on the plot or adjacent rafts at all times.
- the off-site junk raft had to be trashed or used on site.
- A lot of the conversation was on how to deal with the current barge. Even if the motors were taken off it exceeded the raft limit of 650 sq. ft.
- The Committee recommended Sandy measure his barge to confirm the size.
- Mr. Fisher asked if the Committee would consider amending the size limit to accommodate his vessel. However this was a lengthy process and other aquaculturists were not likely to agree.
- He couldn't air dry on his because no overnight anchoring was allowed.
- Donald Benefit and Rob Morrison offered to help extract the barge and junk raft.

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- The Committee noted the need to enforce regulations for the sake of all the growers and State oversight. They emphasized that aquaculture licenses were an excellent deal, allowing use of Town land for a minimal fee, and the responsibility that went with it.
- Five of the aquaculturists shifted animals to the Eel Pond location for 14 days before marketing. There was a brief discussion on petite oyster sales.
- Every spring the corner buoys were reset by GPS.

Rules and Regulations Update

- Ryan Smith and Marni Lipke differentiated between allowing a two year grace period when giving up an aquaculture license/lease voluntarily, and a one year grace period for license revocation.
- They also suggested that there be some interim penalties for aquaculture violations besides revocation of a license (see below: Actions). This would allow easier enforcement including during a grace period.
- The Committee read and liked the wild harvest part of the Shellfish Regulations and the revised Application, but wanted all five members present for a discussion and vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Emily Reddington of the Edgartown Great Pond Foundation was planning to take samples immediately before the Pond was cut. The opening was shooting for Saturday, March 25th but as always was dependent on wind, weather, tides, etc. The Pond was fairly high.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, April 4 & 18, 2017 at Town Hall
- Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday, April 11, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:27PM; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done:

- Ryan - contact Jack Blake and draft Aquaculture regulation violation penalties.
- Paul - call Emily the night before of day of Great Pond opening.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 3/21/17
- Lipke/Smith emails re: Shellfish-Aquaculture Regulation Final Draft (2 p.)
- Regulations for Taking and Culture of Shellfish Draft #4 (17 p.) 3/13/16