

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, June 20, 2017, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Mike Agnoli, Eva Balboni, Antone A. DeBettencourt,
Antone J. DeBettencourt, Alex Friedman, Glen Searle, Patty Sharples,
Tracy Sharples,
Recorder – Marni Lipke

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

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR CHRISTIAN THORNTON TO SIGN THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATIONS FOR ANTONE A. DEBETTENCOURT, ANTONE J. DEBETTENCOURT AND GLEN SEARLE.
- All applicants were cautioned on obeying the regulations that made the industry possible.
- At the end of the meeting, Mike Agnoli presented an application to join the aquaculture lot wait list. He had worked with Nick Turner and was interested in the business. The Committee noted the hard work involved in the industry and suggested he contact veteran aquaculture farmer Jack Blake who was knowledgeable and experienced. The application should be submitted to Kristy Rose at Town Hall with the \$20 fee.
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR CHRISTIAN THORNTON TO SIGN THE AQUACULTURE LICENSE WAIT LIST APPLICATION FOR MIKE AGNOLI.

MINUTES

- LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 2, 2017 AND MAY 16, 2017 MINUTES: RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- All but about 3 cages of Ray Gailey's gear had been removed and the oysters distributed in Pocha and Caleb's Ponds.
- Staff was in propagation mode:
 - about 1,000,000 quahogs in rafts in Sengekontacket;

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- 600,000 oyster seed (due to a bonus for scallop spawning) in the Major's Cove upweller;
- Chappaquiddick Nursery up and running smoothly so far.
 - There were a couple commercial quahoggers, and the water was warm enough for some family fishing without waders, mostly at low tides on weekends.
 - For the first time the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) tested Trapp's Pond in their regular water sampling. The Department requested the tests with a view to starting the three year process to open it for shellfishing.
 - Edgartown Great Pond was fairly high. No fishermen followed through on the request for steamer clamming (see 5/2/17 Minutes p.2).
 - There was great turnout (about 80 people including State Representatives) for the State shellfish/oyster school, showing retailers interested in supporting and participating in oyster propagation.
 - Shellfish Constable and Biologist Paul Bagnall attended the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association the primary topic being the interface between the Environmental Police Officers (EPOs) and local shellfish officers who shared enforcement of shellfish regulation, (which were part of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program regulated by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The focus was on patrolling closed areas while minimizing paperwork.
- The State Shellfish Initiative (see 5/2/17 Minutes p.2) was aimed at expanding aquaculture and fisherman growers or harvesters were likely to be contacted.
 - The biggest surprise of the State Shellfish Advisory was the steady migration of Southern surf clams (documented in Westport) which were smaller than the Northern surf clam now in the area. As a new species regulation turned back to the local town.
 - Paul Bagnall responded to a complaint about the inconsistency of local regulation and enforcement. All shellfish constables were professionally trained and ranged from part to full time with a disparate salary scale based on their duties. Town regulations were tailored to fit the local environment and population including: tides, harvest, grass, quantity, geographic areas, etc.
 - Ralph Savory and Ralph Peckham, from last summer were re-hired as summer help.

OLD BUSINESS

• Aquaculture License Issues

Tracy and Patty Sharples advertised their intention to transfer their license/lease. The first wait list candidate declined and the second, Alex Friedman was in friendly negotiations with the Sharples for the business. The Committee was pleased to set precedent and reviewed the wait list and procedures (see below: p.3 & Actions) . They advised Alex Friedman to:

- contact Chris Scallachi of the DMF for a new propagation permit;
- to please obey the regulations and behave so that everyone profited in this precarious industry.
- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE TRANSFER AND NEW AQUACULTURE LICENSE FOR ALEX FRIEDMAN PENDING SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS WITH TRACY**

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AND PATTY SHARPLES; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• Rules and Regulations Update

- The Selectmen accepted the updated Regulations on June 19th (see below: Actions) and the Committee discussed insuring the fishermen were made aware of the regulations whether through hard copy distribution or posted on the website. The Committee agreed to continue to emphasize relation with each new license holder. Les Baynes repeated the need to professionally and safely regulate the growingly profitable industry—shellfish prices were rising in response to European and Chinese market demand.
- The Selectmen asked about expanding the number of aquaculture lots. The application for wait list and the transfer highlighted continuing interest. The Committee was already considering new locations (see 5/2/17 Minutes p.2) and ideas from the community were welcomed. However, DMF had to certify an area as non-productive before allowing aquaculture, for example Cape Pogue was a prime wild shellfishing area and consequently eliminated from aquaculture.

NEW BUSINESS

- Organize Committee/Elect Chairman

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, July 18th, August 15, 2017 at the Library
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, September 5 & 19, 2017 at the Library

ADJOURNMENT

• LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:17PM; MADELINE FISHER AND RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - reserve Library big room downstairs for September 19th Bay Scallop Season hearing.
- Paul - contact Ray Augur about remaining on the aquaculture wait list.
- Paul - ask Kristy Rose to request to send out billing for the 3 yr. \$20 Wait List fee.
- Paul - follow up with Selectmen on regulation submittal to State.
- Marni - send finalized regulations to Selectmen.
- Agenda - vote 4/18/17 Minutes.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 5/30/17
- Agenda 6/20/17