

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Acting Chair – Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith, Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Candy Nichols,
Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order.

OLD BUSINESS

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO RECONFIRM CHRISTIAN THORNTON AS CHAIR FOR THE NEXT YEAR; NICK TURNER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

MINUTES

• **MADELINE FISHER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 18, 2017 AND JUNE 20, 2017 MINUTES: NICK TURNER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.**

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE ACTING CHAIR RYAN SMITH TO SIGN THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATION FOR CANDY NICHOLS.**
- The Committee wished Candy Nichols well in her work and cautioned her on obeying the newly updated regulations, and on her responsibility for anyone in her boat.
- See below: Actions.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- The staff was in propagation mode.
- The last silo of the 2.6 million nursery quahogs was put out, and the animals were healthy and growing well. Quahogs were brought to Katama and Sengekontacket family areas for a mixed relay. Recreational fishermen were getting their limit within about ½ hr.
- A couple scallop lines were started in Sengekontacket Pond.
- About half the oysters were out of the upweller in 1/8 in. mesh bags, growing and healthy. All but about 6 out of ~100 cages of the 2016 Major's Cove oysters (2-4 in.) were dumped in family and commercial areas of Sengekontacket. About 200 bushels of oysters were taken out of Sengekontacket in the one-month season. The Major's Cove Farm was presented to the Town as

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a de-nitrification measure regarding 0.3-0.5 grams of nitrogen filtered per oyster for 400,000 oysters (see 10/2/12 Minutes p. 3). The Oak Bluffs half of the oyster farm was also up and running but was less productive. Other nitrogen reduction measures included new fertilizer regulations, and better maintenance dredging of the Little Bridge Channel. The Pond was holding steady but other measures were needed to decrease nitrification.

- Staff was also engaged with summer enforcement, Katama family area was busy at low tide.
- Sengekontaktet was closed after the previous storm's 1.5 in. of rain. General regulations closed all ponds as a matter of course during hurricanes or after 4 in. of rain.
- The Board of Selectmen approved the Sharple's aquaculture lease transfer (see 6/20/17 Minutes p. 2-3), and there was a State required hearing.
- Aquaculture farmers were beginning to move animals to outside plots. However the State had now changed their initiative and no longer endorsed a common plot for two-week vibrio measures (see 2/2/16 Minutes p.1) in favor of piggybacking on other's lots. The Committee discussed:
 - the first case of vibrio (from Dennis);
 - comparable icing times;
 - moving stock to Middle Flats (Ryan Smith offered his lot for use);
 - Washington State oyster aquaculture industry;
 - retailers comingling oysters and oyster market price.
- Staff referred a High School student interested in aquaculture to Ryan Smith.

NEW BUSINESS

- End of Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17 – Begin FY18)

The Department returned \$45,000 from the \$44,000 propagation article and \$1,399 from the \$25,000 Department budget—not enough to purchase a new motor for the Zodiac.

Meetings/Events

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

ADJOURNMENT

- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:06PM; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul/Marni – contact IT re: posting new license application & regulations on Town Website.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 7/18/17