

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, September 5, 2017, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith, Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines,
Others: Adam Castro, Noah Scheffer, Roy Scheffer,
Emily Reddington – Great Pond Foundation,
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 AQUACULTURE LICENSE WAITLIST APPLICATION FOR NOAH SCHEFFER (see 8/15/17 Notes).

The Committee reviewed the Wait List order and again solicited suggestions for new plot locations, current suggestions being: Sengekontacket, and the south end of Poucha Pond.

Later in the meeting:

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR CHRISTIAN THORNTON TO SIGN THE AQUACULTURE LICENSE WAIT LIST APPLICATION FOR ADAM CASTRO.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- Staff were working on the Major's Cove Oyster Farm, dividing the crop for the final count and setting up cages for winter. Nitrogen concentration dropped for two years but were now back up slightly—the Pond needed to reduce nitrogen loading, not just hold steady.
- National Marine Fisheries Biologist Clyde McKenzie toured Cape Pogue noting a number of wild sets.
- The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) took another intensive vibrio sampling with some indications that the count was lower than last year. There were no new reported cases—although there was always a long delay in notification. DMF indicated they might reduce the re-submergence period from two to one week after drying, but the local aquaculture farmers were reluctant to change a successful procedure.
- The summer was winding down, although families were still fishing good quahogs from the gravel. There would be a Sengekontacket Pond quahog relay delivery September 19th, to 21st.

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NEW BUSINESS

- Bay Scallop Update & Hearing for September
- It looked like it could be a fairly good scallop year. Animals were mature size with heavy moss. The hearing would be at the next Shellfish Committee meeting (see below: Meeting/Events).
- Governor's Listening Session (Dredge Meeting)
- Shellfish Biologist and Constable Paul Bagnall attended the August 2nd Session on dredging sponsored by the Office of Executive Affairs and Community Development Office—at which there were more Harbormasters than Shellfish Officers. Mr. Bagnall asked the Selectmen to write a letter supporting the Session's focus on:
 - State funds for dredging and
 - relaxing the tight dredge timeframe.

OLD BUSINESS

As the commercial licensing season was starting the Committee asked that the new application form be posted on line and used by Town Hall (see below: Actions).

MINUTES

• RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 18, 2017 MINUTES AS AMENDED AND TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE AUGUST 15, 2017 NOTES: MADELINE FISHER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, September 19, 2017 (Scallop Hearing) at the Library
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, October 3 & 17, 2017 at the Library

ADJOURNMENT

• RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:57PM; MADELINE FISHER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul/Marni - contact IT re: posting new license application & regulations on Town Website.
- Paul/Marni - contact Kristy Rose re: Aquaculture Wait List & use of new application form.
- Paul - reserve downstairs Library Room for September 19th.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 9/5/17