

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Les Baynes, Coop Gilkes
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:36PM.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

• Bay Scallop Season Update

- Everybody was behaving and 7 or 8 limits of good sized, nice adults were caught yesterday, although there was only 1 today due to the miserable weather. Prices had dropped to about \$25/lb. The scallops were easy to read and there were only a few boats in a large area.
- With the threat of ice gone, staff put boats in the water in anticipation of the start of work on the oyster farm. The commercial harvest pretty much cleaned out the Sengekontacket oysters and interest subsided when the season closed—although the family area was still well stocked and people were getting limits. Another 500,000 oysters would be ready for harvest this season.
- Petey Jackson finished School and has been certified as a Shellfish Constable.
- Edgartown Great Pond was very high (about 4.5 in. above sea level) but the opening was delayed by today's 9.5 ft. waves. The cut was re-scheduled for tomorrow and would include an attempt to dredge while it was running.
- The Edgartown aquaculture growers had a good meeting on vibrio measures last weekend (see 2/2/16 Minutes p. 2) and decided to voluntarily restrict Katama harvesting during July and August 2016, relaying animals to soak off Eel Pond. This involved some modification of the Middle Harbor leases, now only licensed for Jeremy and Roy Scheffer (with Ryan and Joe Smith almost ready, and Dan Donnelly's and Nick Turner's hearing was scheduled for Monday, March 21st). Some areas, whether new or already licensed, would have to be permitted for communal emergency use. A Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) meeting was scheduled (see below: Meetings/Events). The 48 hours of icing (as advised by other regional growers) was more of a wholesalers' rather than a growers' issue. The Committee was enthusiastic about Christian Thornton's recommendation for a brightly colored second label with a "Suggested Serve Date:" on it.

NEW BUSINESS

- Wrigley Pier Proposal/Planning Board (See documents on file.)
- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE LETTER AND SEND IT TO THE PLANNING BOARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

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The Army Corps of Engineers would arrive soon for the annual ordinance removal (see 1/20/15 Minutes p. 1).

MINUTES

- **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2, 2016 MINUTES: LES BAYNES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—CHRISTIAN THORNTON** due to absence.

Meetings/Events

- DMF - Conch/Vibrio Workshop - 9:00AM - 3:00PM Wednesday, March 30, 2016
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, April 5, & 19, 2016 at Town Hall
- Annual & Special Town Meeting - 7:00PM, Tuesday, April 12, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:55PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Ryan - contact growers re: a brightly colored "Suggested Serve Date" label re: 48 hr. icing.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 3/15/16
- Letter to Planning Board re: MV Ocean LLC Pier Proposal