

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Chair -Les Baines, Donald Benefit, Christian Thornton,
Coop Gilkes
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Elizabeth Ricketts - Great Pond Foundation
Recorder - Marni Lipke

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

MINUTES

• CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 19, 2016 AND MAY 3, 2016 MINUTES: COOPER GILKES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- There were an average of 2 or 3 commercial fishermen quahogging in Sengekontacket.
- Staff was working on gear; today they finished all the quahog raft floats.
- They wrote \$100 ticket for Sandy Fisher Sr. re: aquaculture gear in still in the Harbor (see 4/19/16 Minutes p. 1), having already delivered the aquaculture regulations to him and given him both verbal and written warnings. He also had cages on a beach he had no permission to use. All leases specified that equipment and cages be confined to the lease plot. The Committee discussed the logistics of the move, space available at the Fishermen's Depot, the need for a raft and a smaller maneuverable boat, Sandy Fisher's large seed orders, and previous warnings from the Selectmen on revocation of his license.
- Later in the meeting Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall reported he had hired Ralph Savory and Ralph Peckam for summer help.
- Edgartown Great Pond was cut last Saturday, May 14th but high winds blew it closed the next day. Another cut would be tried this Sunday, May 22nd. The dredge had been at work, and material was pumped back onto the beach. The Association informed the Department that Oyster Pond would also be cut.
- The Department was working with Oak Bluffs Shellfish Department and Felix Neck in collecting shells and bags to anchor coir logs in the marsh restoration project.
- Shell would be dumped in the pond in late June/July for oyster sets.
- The family quahog relay would open August 1st. No recreational oystering was allowed from June 16 to October 1st.
- The Federal government was clear-cutting parts of Chappaquiddick and endangering eel grass in their ordnance search and removal.

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OLD BUSINESS

2015-16 Citation Update (See 5/3/16 Minutes p. 1-2 and documents on file.)

The Selectmen acted on the Committee recommendations for Nick Viera. The Committee expressed their strong support of staff in discussing the remaining citations—which would come before the Selectmen May 31st.

- Both held violations for seed, which the members considered the more serious offense. All fishermen were educated on seed as the future of the crop and how to distinguish it.
- Lateness was not only a safety issue but also an enforcement issue as it was difficult to inspect the catch in the dark.
- These were Angela Fisher's first two citations, which qualified her for a week's suspension.
- Dave had a history of violations from 2011, two extra bushels in 2013, and then two more this year coming in late with a peck basket of just seed.
- Previously discussed points were reviewed, with an emphasis that this was the first such enforcement and therefore should have an impact on general practice.

• **LES BAINES MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE SELECTMEN:**

- **A 30 DAY SUSPENSION OF DAVE VIERA'S COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING LICENSE INCLUDING THE FIRST WEEK OF COMMERCIAL SCALLOPING SEASON WITH DATES TO BE SET WHEN THE SCALLOP SEASON START WAS KNOWN;**
- **A ONE WEEK SUSPENSION OF ANGELA FISHER'S COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING LICENSE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE COMMERCIAL SCALLOPING SEASON WITH DATES TO BE SET WHEN THE SCALLOP SEASON START WAS KNOWN;**

**DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY:
4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Middle Flats Update

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) would start plot surveys May 25th for: Ryan and Joe Smith, Nick Turner, Dan Donnelly and one lot for common use to quarantine cages before market (see 3/15/16 Minutes p.1).

NEW BUSINESS

- Summer Meeting Schedule (See below: Meetings Events.)

Meetings/Events

- Viera/Fisher Selectmen Hearing - 4:00PM Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesday, **June 21**, 2016 at Edgartown Public Library
 - 4:30PM Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at Edgartown Public Library
 - 4:30PM Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at Edgartown Public Library
 - 4:30PM Tuesdays, September 6, & 20, 2016 at Edgartown Public Library

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ADJOURNMENT

• LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:16PM; COOP GILKES AND CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done :

- Paul - draft Fisher/Viera citation letter to Selectmen
- All - attend Selectmen hearing 4PM 5/31/16
- Marni - request Katama Boat Ramp letter from Marine Advisory Board.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 5/17/16
- Nick Viera Licensing Hearing 5/10/16