

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, October 18, 2016 4:30PM
Edgartown Public Library

Present: Acting Chair -Les Baynes, Donald Benefit, Coop Gilkes,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Arno Ewing, Molly Flam,
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:35PM.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE, TO CONFIRM ACTING CHAIR LES BAYNES IN SIGNING OF THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATIONS FOR ARNO EWING AND MOLLY FLAM.
- Les Baynes cautioned the fishermen that Shellfish Rules and Regulations were posted on the Edgartown Website and would be firmly enforced, the Committee and staff wishing everyone well but understanding its responsibility to protect the shellfish, the harvest and fishermen safety.
- In an unfortunate incident, Town Hall refused a non-resident senior request to purchase a family license at half price as the regulations allowed (and the Shellfish Regulations were taken off the website). This was the first such request in 20 years. The senior then wrote to Paul Bagnall. The Committee discussed and agreed on the following actions.
 - It was extremely important to restore the website post for enforcement actions and cautions.
 - Town Hall should sell the senior the license in accordance with the rules (see below: Actions).
 - It was time for the Committee to review and update the regulations. The process being to draft the update, submit it to the Selectmen for Public Hearing and approval, then send a clean copy to Environmental Fisheries and the Attorney General's Office.

NEW BUSINESS

State Closure for Amnesiac Shellfish Poisoning (ASP)

The phone was ringing off the hook in response to a regional closure starting about 2 weeks ago in Rhode Island and moving to Buzzards Bay and then both Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. The problem was a domoic acid rich algae that collected in shellfish digestive track and caused temporary memory loss in small doses and permanent loss and death in extreme cases. Scallops were considered exempt since only the muscle was consumed. There were no reported cases of illness but testing found it in shellfish. it was felt the tides would clear out the problem. The Committee discussed various related topics:

- neuro-virus testing in Wellfleet, and loss of oyster fests around the region;
- red tide/paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) and the number of virus and bacterial mutations;
- European Union (EU) testing which was more strenuous than US testing etc.

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DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

• Scallop Update

- About 10 families were fishing in the weekend's nice weather. Having to drive almost all the way to Cape Pogue was discouraging more licensees. Sengekontacket harvest was not great.
- Seed was smaller this year so staff expected fewer problems.
- All the quahogs were out of the rafts, about 90% were put in Katama and the rest in the family area in Sengekontacket.
- Last year's oyster crop was put in Sengekontacket. Most of this year's crop was in cages for over-wintering.
- There was an unexplained higher nitrogen concentration in Major's Cove this year.
- Last year's Sengekontacket commercial oyster season helped about half a dozen fishermen through the lower scallop season. Town propagation continued to support the industry and reduce nitrogen loading.

OLD BUSINESS

FY16 Close-Out / FY17 Articles

(See documents on file.)

- Last year the Shellfish Department turned back about \$300.
- The Town informed all departments that this would be a very tight budget year and strongly urged level funding and delayed expenditures. Staff would get steps or longevity, but probably not Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs). The Committee discussed comparable tax rates, unfunded liabilities, overrides, etc.
- The purchase of a new dredge would probably be delayed but it was suggested it be funded by mooring fee revenues. The dredge was not universally supported although it was Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall's opinion that any coastal town not taking care of waterways was not taking care of its economy.
- The article draft was broken down into projected expenditures but was voted as a lump sum.
- There was a brief discussion on the Wrigley Pier which would go in front of the Conservation Commission this evening (see 3/1/16 Minutes p.1).

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, November 7 & 21, 2016 at Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish/Aquaculture meeting - 4:30PM Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:35PM; LES BAYNES AND COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

continued

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Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - talk to Pam re: non-resident senior license.
- November Agenda - 9/20/16, 10/4/16, 10/18/16, 10/28/16 Minutes.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 10/18/16
- FY16 Shellfish Programs Account (2 p.)