

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Les Baynes, Cooper Gilkes,
Christian Thornton,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:40PM. Members expressed some concern for Donal Benefit who was still out fishing after a pre-dawn start.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO CONFIRM CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNING OF THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATION OF ADAM CASTRO DURING THE WINTER HOLIDAY SEASON.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- The Deputies put the Major's Cove Oyster Project to bed for the winter, detaching all buoys and sinking the cages so they wouldn't be dragged by any ice. The 2014 crop was about 110 cages, with 12 bags per cage, most in 5/8 in. mesh bags. The boat was also out of the water.
- Later in the meeting Coop Gilkes reported that some people came into his shop over the holidays and bought waders, rakes, etc. to go oystering and were totally ecstatic over the whole experience (see below: Actions).

Bay Scallop Update

- Commercial fishermen were still getting limits but working hard for it, most were in by 2:30PM, with less on the afternoon shift. A few found limits outside the Harbor, around the Lighthouse. There was no push back on the temperature change. This week's chill was likely to shut down fishing until Monday.
- Later in the meeting Shellfish Biologist and Constable Paul Bagnall reported that the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) planned a new water line for increased flow into the Chappaquiddick Nursery. This, however, would probably trigger a replumbing of the entire building at prohibitive cost, so the Department was proceeding with caution, instead proposing replacement and expansion of the current pipe.
 - When the scallop season slowed the Department would start work on replacing the rotting window sills—recent storms broke a window which was now boarded up.
 - The front porch and front building wall would need extensive work in the spring.

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- The Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen approved six Middle Flat lots (see below: Actions).
- The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and State were conferring with Federal agencies on Vibrio and still hoped to have the 2015 regulations ready by March. The Committee discussed average serving size at 6 to 8 oysters in contrast to the Federal standard of 13 per serving which impacted the “acceptable dose level per serving” of one case per 100,000 servings – 1,200,000 oysters by Federal standards versus 600-800,000 by normal practice.

OLD BUSINESS

Leland/Schifter Water Sampling Agreement (See documents on file.)

- Chair Ryan Smith signed the Schifter letter which would be sent both electronically and by U.S. Mail. If there was no response Paul Bagnall would ask to be put on the Selectmen’s agenda.

Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Budget & Articles

- The Shellfish FY16 proposed Budget and Warrant Articles would come before the FinCom this Thursday (see below: Actions). Paul Bagnall had drafted the reasons for the Majors Cove Oyster Project position (see documents on file). This Budget was fairly level with last year’s, due to last year’s equipment purchases.
- Town Annual Report drafts were due tomorrow (see below: Actions). The Department numbers were good this year with 8,524 bushels of scallops, (98% of it during the fall) at an average \$16 per bushel or \$1,091,027 (exceeding the previous two years - 2012 produced more scallops but lowered prices).

MINUTES

• LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 16, 2014 MINUTES: CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS.

Meetings

- FinCom Hearing - 4:20 PM, Thursday, January 8, 2015 - Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, January 20, & February 3, 2015 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

• LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:20PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

continued

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Actions To Be Done:

- Ryan/Christian - submit Committee Annual Town Report by Wed. 1/7/15.
- Paul - change Department Annual Report financial reportings to market values.
- All - attend FinCom meeting Thursday 1/8 @ 4:20 - meet in lobby at 4PM
 - Paul - ask Wastewater to stay for Shellfish session.
- Paul - send letter to DMF re: spring inspection of 6 middle flat plots.
- Coop - tell oyster customers to email selectmen.
- Paul - ask Lenny Jason if mini-excavator is appropriate re: Chappaquiddick trenching.
- Marni - after 1/15/15 call Paul re: office records.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 1/6/15
- Smith/Edg. Shellfish letter to Schifter 12/18/14
- Major's Cove Oyster Project began two years ago... 1/6/15
- Town of Edgartown, Budget Analysis: Projection 2016 Page 40 12/12/14