

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, April 7, 2015, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Hall

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:39PM.

- Cooper Gilkes was up for re-appointment this year. The Committee considered Donald Benefit's prolonged absence (see below: Actions).

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- Bay Scallop Update

About 8 boats were getting limits of nice scallops but from long tows and long hours, some fishing outside or off the Windmill house. Considering the loss of 22-28 days due to winter weather, and that the price was still good:

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO EXTEND THE SCALLOP SEASON THROUGH APRIL 30, 2015 FOR OUTSIDE OF THE HARBOR ONLY (STATE NUMBER V18) WITH ALL PONDS CLOSED (SENKONTACKET, KATAMA, POGUE, ETC.); CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.** (See below: Actions).

- Chappaquiddick Nursery

- Work would start as soon as the weather cleared a little (see 3/17/15 Minutes p. 2) including replacing some windows on the north side. It was suggested staff contact Habitat for Humanity who often had excess construction materials (see below: Actions).
- All Major's Cove Oyster Farm buoys were back on the plot, and the raft, which had been floating around with the ice, would be retrieved shortly. The Deputies sank the cages as deep as possible and the seed seems to have survived the brutal winter.
- Staff towed in a couple fishermen whose boats had broken down.
- Shellfish Biologist and Constable Paul Bagnall sent a letter requesting the Katama Relay be opened in August 2015 (official date was October).

OLD BUSINESS

- FY16 Budget & Articles

There were 4 articles:

- Joint Oak Bluffs/Edgartown Marsh Grass Restoration - \$8,890;
- the usual Shellfish Programs - \$44,000;
- the usual article to accept grants and donations;
- creation of the position Major's Cove deputy position with Cost of Living Adjustment.

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• Town Meeting April 14, 2015

Paul Bagnall suggested that he report on Major's Cove Oyster Farm and Shellfish Dept. status at the beginning of Annual Town Meeting (see below: Actions).

- The arguments for the third deputy position were reviewed, and Martha's Vineyard high cost of living noted, along with the separate benefit package.
- He had informed the Town Administrator that the articles were such that if the Department was not voted the third position, there would not be enough money to fund its most popular program(s).

NEW BUSINESS

• Vibrio Update

Regulations were expected by the end of April and were likely to be similar or identical to last year's—with the addition of a "slurry" definition, and testing sediment under the cages (last year's Katama sediment sample was slightly positive). Dealers were required to refrigerate but not ice.

MINUTES

• **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 17, 2015 MINUTES: CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—CHRISTIAN THORNTON** due to absence.

Meetings/Events

- Annual Town Meeting - 7:00PM, Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at Whaling Church
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, April 21, & May 5, 2015 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

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

Actions To Be Done:

- Rob - ask Donald Benefit re: continued Committee membership.
- Paul - put Scallop Season extension on Selectmen agenda.
- Warren/Rob - contact Hal Kelly of Habitat for Humanity re: new windows.
- Paul/Ryan - amend Article #8 New Shellfish Deputy typo - to begin in 7/1/2015
- Paul- email Town Meeting Report to Committee.

April 21, Agenda

- 4/7/15 Minutes

Documents on File:

- Agenda 4/7/15