

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Hall

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

The meeting was called to order.

OLD BUSINESS

• Vibrio Update

Representatives from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), the Department of Public Health, the Food & Drug Administration and Massachusetts Environmental Law Enforcement were coming to the Island tomorrow on the cutter *Evelyn* to view the Katama oyster farms. The vibrio protocol roll out (available on the DMF website) was similar to last year's, although it was unclear what would trigger a closure. Farmers were concerned that with 15% of the State oyster supply, Katama had 40% of the illness. This season's unknown factors included:

- the North Point breach closing, making for less current and lower tides within the Bay,
- and the effects of the long cold winter.

NEW BUSINESS

• Committee Membership

Coop agreed to re-appointment. Les Baynes would continue as the Dredge Committee representative. There was no word from Donald Benefit.

• New Deputy

The new position would be advertised for a two-week period with the Personnel Board and candidates would be told there was a strong in-house candidate. The Committee asked to interview candidates (probably at the May 19, 2015 meeting).

- The Committee again congratulated Constable Paul Bagnall on Town Meeting approval.

OLD BUSINESS

• Chappaquiddick Nursery

The pipe replacement project received a Negative Finding from the Conservation Commission, and the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) received funding from a Kohlberg Foundation grant so work would begin shortly.

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- Front Porch repairs had begun, however after the winter snow melt the junction box exploded and was only turned back on yesterday. MVSG would pick up the bill.
- The fresh water would be turned on shortly and quahog seeds were expected in June.

- Bay Scallop Update

Four or five fishermen were still fishing Outside, and it was clear that closing Cape Pogue was well timed since limits were about finished and the last one was full of slunkers and some scallops going off to males.

- The Department was changing quahog relay suppliers, but delivery might be delayed till after Labor Day due to the scarcity of Steamship Authority ferry reservations. Last year's planting dug in well and looked okay.
- The Department hoped to put any residual money into buying a trailer to use for quahog relay hauling (saving the \$500 dump truck trips), upweller transport, etc.
- There was a discussion on various Town Meeting votes and anecdotes.
- Marni Lipke reported on the Collins Beach parking developments, including replenishing the sand on the beach, hauling away all abandoned boats and trailers, dinghy tie up, and restriction of aquaculture work to the plots except in extraordinary circumstances such as last winter's freeze.

MINUTES

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 7, 2015 MINUTES: COOPER GILKES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Meetings/Events

• Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, May 5 & 19, 2015 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:05PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - contact Donald re; membership.
- Paul - contact Selectmen re: Cooper Gilkes re-appointment.
- Paul - post new deputy position - interview 5/19/15 meeting

Documents on File:

- Agenda 4/21/15