

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 4:30PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Donald Benefit, Cooper Gilkes,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison, Peter Jackson,  
Others: Richard Lacus,  
Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Lacus was interested in circulation and dredging issues for Joseph Sylvia State Beach, Pay Beach and Sengekontacket Pond. The Committee discussed the configuration and construction of the jetties and the effects of sholing and hard East-Northeast winds. Water quality issues were:

- Sarson's Island and the cormorants,
  - the Ocean Heights neighborhood sewer/septic effects, and
  - eelgrass—particularly in Trapps Pond (Donald Benefit hunted blue claws there).
- Sengekontacket Pond bottom included a lot of acid. Shellfish Biologist and Constable Paul Bagnall advised Mr. Lacus to attend the Dredge Committee meetings and to advocate support among the wealthier riparian owners.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

• Chappaquiddick Nursery Update

The new 4" pipes and pumps, were installed. The new siding completed the building sheath and the porch/deck had been shored up. The building was ready for the season including possibly some algae/seaweed crops.

- The Major's Cove oysters were growing well and looking good.
- Sengekontacket seasonal closure had started, so rainfall would be closely monitored.
- The staff gave out Vibrio logbooks (see below) and the first samples were sent to the State Lab on Monday.
- The Katama Relay areas were being re-marked after winter ice dragged the buoys.
- Quahog rafts were progressing. Paul Bagnall contacted Musckungus for relay clams.
- A survey showed few or no clams in Edgartown Great Pond (see 5/5/15 Minutes p. 1), although there were lots of oysters around the shores.
- Summer interns Ralph Peckham, Ralph Savery, and Paul Schultz all wanted to return but were informed of the budget reduction due to the additional deputy (see 12/16/14 Minutes p. 1).

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NEW BUSINESS

• New Deputy Review Applications

Six applications were submitted and reviewed by the Committee. After discussions with Deputies Rob Morrison, Warren Gaines and Constable Paul Bagnall:

• **DONALD BENEFIT RECOMMENDED HIRING PETER JACKSON, JR. FOR THE NEW SHELLFISH DEPUTY POSITION; COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.** The Committee considered Mr. Jackson a bargain at \$20/hr.

- Staff had to be sworn in every three years (current staff being sworn in 2014).
- As the end of Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) approached the Department had enough money to buy a trailer (see 4/21/15 Minutes p. 2), to facilitate a more reliable source of relay quahogs. They hoped to re-stock Sengekontacket in September 2015.

OLD BUSINESS

• Vibrio Summer Testing Plans

Katama testing would take place every Monday (with Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) testing every other Monday) for the Newburyport lab. One oyster from each grower would be taken so that the sample would be general. The DMF had deployed a temperature/salinity monitoring system and would add oxygen monitors shortly. It was likely that this sort of testing would become a normal regimen in the near future—just like the current bacterial count.

Summer Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, at the Town Barn  
- June 16, 2015, July 21, 2015, and August 18, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

• **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:12PM; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done:**

- Paul - contact Selectmen with Deputy recommendation.
- Pete - get sworn in.
- Paul - contact Selectmen re: Leland/Schifter.
- **June 16, 2015, Agenda**
  - 4/21/15, 5/5/15 & 5/19/15 Minutes
  - Leland / Schifter Water Testing Agreement Update

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 5/19/15