

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, July 21, 2015, 4:30PM**  
**Edgartown Town Barn**

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Donald Benefit, Christian Thornton,  
Cooper Gilkes,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Pete Jackson,  
Others: Recorder - Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 4:43PM.

MINUTES

• **COOPER GILKES MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 21, 2015, MAY 5, 2015 AND JUNE 16, 2015 MINUTES: CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- Staff was dumping last year's oysters from all the cages to make room for this year's crop. Originally the plan was to dump seed at only 2 in. but swift growth and success meant the now 1200 lb. cages had become a transportation and handling problem. As part of the nitrogen reduction plan for Sengekontacket Pond the animals had to be removed (see 10/2/12 Minutes p.3). However, the family areas were full, as were Calebs and Eel Ponds; Trapps Pond was still closed and Poucha was logistically difficult. Staff suggested dumping oysters along Major's Cove with the idea of a spring commercial season. The Committee was generally in favor of the move, feeling it would be a good alternate March/April crop. It was also suggested that the Department contact Island Grown Initiative (IGI) regarding excess volume.
- **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO DUMP THE MAJOR'S COVE FARMED OYSTERS ALONG MAJORS COVE PENDING POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL SEASON TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
- The Edgartown Great Pond Oyster Project (catching spat for growth and a remote set) was proceeding. Staff put out 25 yard of shell and seed was being monitored from the oysters that were suspended in cages.

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**July 21, 2015**

2

OLD BUSINESS

• Chappaquiddick Nursery Update

- The new 4 in. hoses broke twice creating geysers that had to be cleaned up and repaired (see below: Actions).
- The Nursery was up and running with most of the quahogs out; scallops would be started soon.

• Vibrio Update

- Word was, there was one case of vibrio somewhere in Massachusetts, but the Dept. of Health had released no further information.
- Katama samples were still being sent weekly for testing and so far vibrio levels were low, but there was a two week lag in results.

NEW BUSINESS

• Ray Gailey - Poucha Pond

It was reported that Town Administrator Pam Dolby had given Ray Gailey permission to put his aquaculture cages in the Narrows to Poucha Pond.

- **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED THAT:**
    - **THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY REFUSED PERMISSION TO AN AQUACULTURE APPLICANT FOR THE NARROWS TO POUCHA POND;**
    - **ALL AQUACULTURE LEASES MUST BE BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE;**
    - **RAY GAILEY IS DIRECTED TO REMOVE ALL HIS EQUIPMENT FROM THE NARROWS BACK TO HIS LEASE LOT IN SHEAR PEN BECAUSE WHEN IN THE NARROWS IT IS A HAZARD TO BOTH NAVIGATION AND WILD SHELLFISHING;**
- CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- Cooper Gilkes expressed concern about an old scallop boat parked in the lot, that was giving commercial scallopers a bad reputation (see below: Actions).
- Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) representative Gerry Moles has retired so aquaculture licensing at a stand still. The new Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) biologist would be on Island this summer. The Department priority was to keep Sengkontacket open all winter and to continue testing Trapps.

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**July 21, 2015**

3

- Shellfish Constable and Biologist Paul Bagnall reported a Massachusetts Board of Public Health (DPH) representative would be on the Island tomorrow for quahog sample for family area.

- End of Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) / Beginning of FY16

- The \$1,200 FY15 residual was not enough to buy the trailer (full rig with extra braking about \$5,000). \$258 was returned to the Town.
- One of the Department trucks broke down in Paul Bagnall's driveway on his way to this meeting.
- Town Meeting approved the Shellfish Budget Articles and Pete Jackson was now on staff so the Department was in reasonably good shape for FY16.
- Staff was interested in a small zodiac to improve enforcement access to shellfishers.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, August 18, 2015 at the Town Barn, September 1, & 15, 2015 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

**• RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:47PM; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done:**

- Paul - contact Pam Dolby re: Ray Gailey.
- Paul/Ryan - put Major's Cove commercial oyster season on August agenda - should this be a Public Hearing? If so post in the press two weeks in advance.
- All - the Department is looking for a small zodiac.
- Paul/Donald - contact Jay re: two 200 ft. sections of 4" fuel line for Chappy Nursery.
- Paul/Staff- contact Jack McElheny and the Harbormaster re: abandoned boat - and/or tow to his yard.

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 7/22/15