

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 7:00PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

Present: Chair – Jack Blake, Les Baynes, Ryan Smith  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison  
Others: Marni Lipke – Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 7:09PM.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

A letter was received expressing concern over the Outer Harbor aquaculture applications:

- broken equipment washing up onshore,
- altered views of homeowners,
- rotating the plot so the narrow end faced the land.

The Committee noted that equipment almost never washed up on shore, that the buoys would be too far offshore to be visible. There was some consideration of rotating the plots but if more plots were added the silhouette from land would be increased rather than decreased. **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE TO CONFIRM THE PLOTS AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED.**

There was a discussion on the difficulties of Outer Harbor farms:

- heavy wave action compressing oysters to one side of the cage,
- heavy barnacle infestation, etc.

MINUTES

**• LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE:**

- **NOVEMBER 5, 2013 MINUTES,**
- **NOVEMBER 19, 2013 MINUTES,**
- **DECEMBER 3, 2013 MINUTES,**
- **DECEMBER 17, 2013 NOTES;**

**RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.**

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLES' REPORTS

- The Facebook page was up and running. Photos could be posted from cell phones and updates on temperature, closings, etc. would become more accessible.
- Shellfish Biologist Paul Bagnall drafted the Department Annual Report and Chair Jack Blake drafted the Committee Annual Report (see documents on file).

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Bay Scallop Update

- Dip netters were catching scallops in Sengekontacket, with commercial fishers doing reasonably well getting two and family fishers getting one basket.
- In general when not too cold there were two or three commercial fishers working. Saturday fishing would be allowed this week due to the cold weather closings and was likely to be crowded if temperatures reached 50°F.
- People were getting good oysters from the farm seconds seeded at the end of the docks. Oyster were setting but the seed was usually decimated by predators.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and Dept. Public Health (DPH) were running a listening meeting to gather opinion and information from aquaculture farmers on managing Vibrio, (see 10/1/13 Minutes p. 2 and below: Meetings/Events). In the course of the discussion a number of points were raised.

- One case in July and one in August should not be constituted as an outbreak.
- It was also unreasonable to close the farms in September for a problem in July/August.
- Test results had not been available to the Committee or fishermen. If inconclusive they should be eliminated from the criteria.
- Temperature ceilings should be set so that farmers could plan accordingly.
- Oyster consumption had doubled in the last year and aquaculture was an expanding industry.

Majors Cove Oyster Project - The project had been put to sleep for the winter.

Leland/Schifter Water Sampling Agreement

- Nothing further had been heard (see below: Actions).

NEW BUSINESS

FY15 Budget

Finance Committee Meeting 1/8/14 at 4:45PM

The remainder of the discussion centered on the proposed new position. Ideally the Department was in great need of a third Deputy at 30 hours/week.

- The Deputies all had similar skills, performed similar work, and should be paid equally.
- Furthermore it would generate optimum scheduling and daily assignments.
- It was difficult to retain skilled staff if the position was not assured.
- The strong in-house candidate had excellent skills, integrity and incentive.
- The Committee discussed various options.
- Hiring as an independent contractor at 30 hours was more expensive than a salaried benefited position due to Prevailing State Wage levels.

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- A benefited position would increase the Other Post Employee Benefit (OPEB) liability which was a serious concern of the Selectmen.
- The Department had not increased personnel in 30 years.
- A fallback option would most likely be an addition to the Major's Cove Warrant Article below the State Prevailing Wage cutoff.
- As compared with sewerage this was a minor expense.
- The Major's Cove Project required heavy physical labor but benefited the Town as a growing industry, water quality measure, and recreational pastime.
- All were urged to attend the FinCom meeting to advocate for the position.

Meetings/Events

- FinCom - 4:45PM, Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays, January 21, February 4, 2014 at Town Hall
- DMF/Vibrio - 9:30AM Monday, January 13, 2014 at Tisbury Town Hall /Katherine Cornell Theater

ADJOURNMENT

- **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:33PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done :**

- Jack - confirm Roy Scheffer application signature.
- Paul - email Marni 11/19/13 Agenda.
- Paul - contact DMF for the 2013 temperature readings
- Jack - draft letter re: Leland Schifter.
- All - attend FinCom meeting 1/8/14.

**Ongoing Actions**

- Paul/Jack - apply for CPA grant for Chappaquiddick Nursery in August/September.
- Paul/Warren/Rob - plant next Katama relay area closer to the boat ramp.
- Paul - attend Dredge Committee meetings as possible.

**Documents on file:**

- Agenda 1/7/14
- Arthur Y. Allen letter re: Application for Bottom Aquaculture License Being Considered Today 1/13/14
- Shellfish Committee 2013 Annual Report (2 p.)
- 2013 Annual Report Shellfish Department (5 p.)
- Additional Personnel 12/19/13
- Personnel Request (3 p.) 11/26/13