

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 7:00PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair - Jack Blake, Les Baynes, Donald Benefit, Ryan Smith
Cooper Gilkes,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison
Others: Marni Lipke - Recorder

Call meeting to order 7:04

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLES' REPORTS

- Fishing days were curtailed due to the freeze and Dave Berube was the only one out when weather allowed - he was getting three washbaskets of good scallops each time.
- The Deputies had been overseeing the new floor at the Chappaquiddick Nursery (see below) and working on bags and upweller bins for the Major's Cove Project.
- Shellfish Biologist/Constable Paul Bagnall attended the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association (MSOA) Board of Directors meeting on Vibrio in New Bedford, and then stayed around for the New England Shellfish Sanitation Grant workshop. The State was likely to drop the ice slurry requirement, as too much of a shock to the oysters. Anti-vibrio procedures would probably not be set before May 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

Leland/Schifter Agreement (See documents on file.)

Jack Blake conferred with Marine Advisory Board Chair Gary Look. Although still very uncomfortable ordering tests without control of the money, it was important to start monitoring the Pond this spring. Consequently Jack Blake drafted a letter to Mr. Schifter including giving him the option to hire out the tests (see below: Actions). Paul Bagnall's testing regimen /timeline requirements would be included (total nitrogen panel, total organic carbons, dissolved oxygen, water temperature, salinity, turbidity, and chlorophyll). There was a debate over whether this was in keeping with the original intention of the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) ruling and the feasibility of outside testing and control. The Committee acknowledged a lack of leverage as the Leland house had been moved so the other parties had what they wanted.

Chappaquiddick Nursery

The textured rubber flooring had been installed, including:

- flashing up the walls,
- a removable molding for further wall coating as needed, and
- 6 in. heat sealed drains flush to the floor.

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Particular kudos went to Patrick Parker for coming in under budget, with free installation and a discount in manufacturer costs. The Committee discussed: conical bottomed tanks (larval production), the need for a casement window, the possibility of plastic wood walls, and closing/draining the facility during the winter freeze.

Town Meeting Articles / Budget FY15

The Selectmen agreed to add \$20,000 for a year of labor costs onto the Major's Cove warrant article—for a total of \$64,000 (see 1/7/14 Minutes p. 2-3).

- The Committee emphasized several points:
 - the need to start conversations immediately about the project's longevity and results,
 - added value to the shellfish recreation, revenue and product,
 - publicizing that harvesting oysters benefited Pond health by reducing nitrogen loading,
 - cost of 1.5¢ on the tax dollar.
- Some oysters would not be released until Fall to avoid summer Pond closings (see 7/17/07 Minutes p. 1-2 and 5/15/12 Minutes p. 2-3).
- Staff was mentoring the Oak Bluffs Shellfish staff who were starting their part of the Major's Cove project.

NEW BUSINESS

Vibrio Plan 2014 Update (See documents on file.)

The Katama oyster farmers were moving toward creating a growers association. Recent discussions covered vibrio, Pond temperature and voluntary closures.

- Oak Bluffs was sponsoring a required class for all its restaurants serving oysters. Jack Blake drafted a letter to the Edgartown Health Agent asking him to urge Edgartown restaurants to join the class. A grower was putting together an oyster safety brochure for restaurants.
- Last year recreational shellfishing was still allowed during the farm closures (see 9/17/13 Minutes p. 2); however future closures were likely to be more consistently enforced.

Middle Flats Aquaculture Area (See 11/5/13 Minutes p. 1)

Roy Scheffer received a negative Finding of Applicability from the Conservation Commission and Jeremy Scheffer's application was in process. The Board of Selectmen would consequently request a Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) survey, so now was the time for the Committee to decide if it wanted the survey to cover a larger area for future plots. Although no decision was reached, the discussion covered:

- whether the plots were viable,
- Middle Flats as a possible fall back for any temporary Katama closures,
- other forms of aquaculture—mussels, seaweed, etc.
- policing issues of a single farmer with two plots.

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MINUTES

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 7, 2014 MINUTES: DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS—DONALD BENEFIT, COOP GILKES** due to absence.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays, February 18, & March 4, 2014 at Town Hall
- Edgartown Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday, April 8, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

• **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:58PM; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done :

- Jack/Marni - finalize Shifter and Board of Health letters.
- Paul - draft Poucha testing protocol/timeline to be attached to the Schifter letter.
- Warren/Rob/Donald - coordinate on mushrooms.
- Paul - check with Rick K. and Atlantic re: 710, 750 & 1400 mesh bags, (8 bins worth)
- All - look out for a used casement window for the Chappaquiddick Hatchery.
- Paul - ask DMF for Katama temperatures again.
- Jack/Paul - include Middle Flats vote on next meeting agenda in time for Selectmen letter to DMF.

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 2/4/14
- Blake draft letter to Edgartown Board of Health 2/4/14
- Blake draft letter to Schifter 1/21/14