

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 7:00PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

Present: Chair - Jack Blake, Les Baynes, Ryan Smith  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines,  
Others: Dudley Levick  
Marni Lipke - Recorder

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04PM.

- There was a brief discussion on the loss and the spawning cycles of herring, Atlantic Salmon, and the impact of commercial tow net fishing.

MINUTES

- LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 AS WRITTEN AND MARCH 4, 2014 MINUTES AS AMENDED; RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- The Deputies finished all the upweller boxes and screens, including a couple with extra small mesh.
- Shellfish Constable/ Biologist Paul Bagnall was headed to the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association (MSOA) Directors and the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) conferences on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, where he expected lots of discussion on vibrio and he would pressure DMF representative Gerry Moles to expedite the Middle Flats Aquaculture survey, and ask about the role of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Chappaquiddick Nursery

- All toxic painting had been given a final finish coat.

Middle Flats Aquaculture Area

- The Selectmen had been informed of the projected 10 two-acre lots.
  - A public hearing would be held open to all Edgartown residents.
  - The Selectmen would apply for a Determination of Applicability hoping for a negative finding from the Conservation Commission (ConCom). They would then send a letter to the DMF and the Army Corps of Engineers. It was probably better to apply for the entire 20 acres, rather than as individual plots.
  - Leases for bottom aquaculture could be crafted using the Katama leases as templates and with similar rules and regulations. The Committee discussed differences such as: buoy/ equipment visibility, seaweed or mussel cages, etc.

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- Dredge projects and pricing (including Fuller St.) were briefly reviewed.
- Edgartown Great Pond might be opened Monday - Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. The sand material from the opening might or might not be trucked to the parking lot.

OLD BUSINESS

Leland/Schifter Water Sampling Agreement

The letter was mailed a week ago but the receipt had not yet been returned.

Town Meeting Articles/Budget FY15

The Warrant would be out shortly. Everyone was urged to attend the Meeting and vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Center for Coastal Studies.

Paul Bagnall went to a meeting on septic system chemicals of emerging concern: acetaminophen, pharmaceuticals, etc. Molecular testing showed Edgartown Great Pond to have the highest acetaminophen reading of any body of water sampled, except right off Barnstable. The Center planned further water and oyster testing to determine if it was bio-accumulating—hoping for negative oyster findings. As a growing issue, Paul Bagnall had included it in a letter of support for the continuing grant.

Quahog Relay Program 2014

- Sengekontacket Pond was replanted in early May 2013 and opened for harvesting October 1, 2013. State Beach goers were likely to drive out any Sengekontacket quahogers during summer but this made for good fall harvests.
- The Katama relay area was planted closer to ramp.
- The Committee agreed to let the old relay area stand, commercial fishing would really be a money loss for the Town.
- Some gravel areas were seeded.

PUBLIC COMMENT (See documents on file.)

The Edgartown Great Pond Committee (including representatives from Shellfish, Wastewater, Planning, etc.) 2007 Reports were reviewed. They were meant as interactive working guidelines and detailed how the Pond was recharged (annual rainfall and ground water), the effect of oysters on de-nitrification, oyster spawning cycles, etc.

- There was a long discussion on factors that effected the implementation of the guidelines (reduced rainfall, salinity, etc.) and the good or bad effects of shifts in the opening schedule.
- Large Cove dredging was difficult due to muck disposal and dewatering problems.
- There was a decided difference of opinion on what optimum salinity levels should be.

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- Dudley Levick again advocated closing each opening after 8-10 days, suggesting that four 10-day openings would better stabilize the Pond.
- Paul Bagnall maintained closings were only possible if the opening was about to close anyway, and not if it was in full spate. In addition cost was likely to be prohibitive.
- He further suggested science as not a simple process, each opening differing in many factors; wave action, currents, storms, weather/wind, bottom configuration, salinity, marine life, endangered shore bird restrictions, etc. The salinity and height of the Pond effected non-oyster wildlife (eel grass, blue claw, Atlantic sturgeon, herring, etc.) which had different and related cycles.
- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO RECONVENE THE POND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO RE-EXAMINE THE REPORT AND GOALS; THERE WAS NO SECOND.** He suggested the Committee re-examine the history of the openings and the possible effect of the recent dredging of the delta for further data.
- The Committee acknowledged Mr. Levicks concerns and would take the matter under advisement.

Meetings

- Edg. Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays, April 1 & 15, 2014 at Town Hall
- Dredge Committee - Thursday, April 6, 2014 (Paul will not be there.)
- Annual Town Meeting - Tuesday, April 8, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:37PM; JACK BLAKE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done :**

- Paul/Jack- ask Selectmen to post and hold a public hearing for Middle Flats lots.  
= inform residents and fishermen re: open aquaculture leases.
- Paul/Committee - re-examine Great Pond opening reports and issues.

**April Agenda**

- Second Reading Pre-approved Middle Flats Aquaculture Policy

**Ongoing Actions**

- Paul/Jack - apply for CPA grant for Chappaquiddick Nursery in August/September.
- Paul- attend Dredge Committee meetings as possible.

**Documents on file:**

- Agenda 3/18/14
- Report on Development of Edgartown Great Pond (2 p.)
- The objective of this management plan... (3 p.) 6/20/07