

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 7:00PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair - Jack Blake, Les Baynes, Donald Benefit,
Coop Gilkes, Ryan Smith,

Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Rob Morrison, Warren Gaines,
Marni Lipke - Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 6:58PM.

MINUTES (Not Available.)

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLES' REPORTS

- Shellfish Constable and Biologist Paul Bagnall met with the other Island Constables and the new Environmental Police Officer (EPO); topics ranged from vibrio, to cracking and conching size/number of pots. This EPO was more vigilant than previous ones, checking licenses, and likely to be strict on tagging oysters and fish from farm to table.
- The Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) as well as the Department of Public Health would give a presentation Tuesday, April 29th at the Catherine Cornell Theater on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Plan (HACCP) regulations and best practices for seafood dealers and restaurants.
- All Shellfish articles passed. Most discussion focused on the new Procurement Officer and the fertilizer regulations.

Chappaquiddick Nursery

- The interior was 90% complete lacking only minor plumbing, a box rewire and pumps.
- Rick Karney was just beginning quahog spawning, for likely delivery around May 1st.
- The Department might start a trial run of water to condition the mussels.
- Something up with the pumps at the Lobster Hatchery but State was responsible.
- There was a natural set sitting on the mussels in Caleb's Pond.

Majors Cove Oyster Project

The project was showing good growth and very low mortality. On a quick count there were 250-400 per cage and all 88 cages accounted for—visibility was good and there were no strays. Although there were some jingle shells, there wasn't much fouling, so it would not be necessary to air dry them until late June - at which point two days should be sufficient. Cages could be dragged ashore facing out to discourage casual poaching.

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Great Pond Opening

Edgartown Great Pond was opened Friday, March 28th with a good exchange (due to the dredging). It was now beginning to scissor toward closing although the current South South East wind might keep it open a little longer. Salinity was up to 20 PPT.

OLD BUSINESS

Leland/Schifter Water Sampling Agreement

The letter had still not been signed for, nor had the receipt been returned. The Committee discussed various options: mailing the letter uncertified, mailing it to his attorney, or to a different address (see below: Actions).

Bay Scallop Season Update

The season had ended but numbers were not yet in; estimates were low, with only three or four fishermen per day, and 22 weather canceled days.

Middle Flats Aquaculture Area Update

The Selectmen wrote the letter to Gerry Moles at DMF and Paul Bagnall had spoken to him. Paul was preparing a Google Map of the 20 acre area (about 8 - 15ft. deep) for the coming Public Hearing. Ryan Smith had a Determination of Applicability Conservation Commission meeting tomorrow for his lot.

Meeting Time / Summer Meeting Schedule

After some discussion on public convenience and staff time (see 4/1/14 Minutes p. 1)

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO CHANGE THEIR MEETING TIME TO 4:30PM ON THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAYS OF EACH MONTH.
- The Committee set the summer meetings on the first Tuesday of June, July and August (see below: Meetings).

NEW BUSINESS

Qhahog Relay

Paul Bagnall was working on the purchase of 300 80 lb. bags of quahogs, and some from the Vineyard Haven Hatchery. The Committee discussed the possibility of vibrio regulations for quahogs.

- In view of the new shellfish regulations, the Committee discussed the possibility of a grant for a Town ice machine but the deadline was April 23, 2014 so the Katama Growers Assoc. or individuals would be the more likely applicants. The members discussed, size/output, location, cost and cooler quality.
- Jack Blake finally received a letter from the State on his October 2013 oyster test results, stating essentially that Sweetneck Farm oysters showed a lower vibrio count than the control batch.

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- It was rumored the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was setting an oyster serving size at 13-15 large oysters per serving. Members noted that a standard serving was six and no more. The East Coast Aquaculture Growers were running a survey of all East Coast restaurants to determine actual serving size.

- This was Chair Jack Blake's last meeting (see 2/18/14 Minutes p. 2). The Committee thanked him for his service – as well as this meeting's refreshments. The Selectmen would post the vacancy for application and appointment.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish – ~~4:30PM~~, Tuesdays, May 6 & 20, 2014 at the Town Hall
- Dredge Committee – Thursday, April 17, 2014
- DMF/Public Health re: HACCP – Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at Catherine Cornell
- Edg. Shellfish – 4:30 PM, June 3, 2014, July 1, 2014, August 5, 2014 at the Town Barn

ADJOURNMENT

• **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:49PM; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done :

- Chair/Paul –bring Shifter letter up at next Selectmen meeting
- and to the MVC follow-up committee.
- Jack/Katama Growers – 4/23 ice machine grant deadline.
- Paul – Google map and advertise coordinates for Middle Flats Public Hearing.
- Paul – post May 1st agenda.
- Paul/Jack – talk to Nick & Selectmen re: Committee vacancy.

May 6th Agenda

- Minutes: 3/18/14, 4/1/14, 4/15/14
- Reorganization
- Second Reading of Middle Flats Lot Policy
- Edgartown Great Pond Opening Update
- Move checkpoint to Chappaquiddick Nursery Discussion

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 4/15/14
- Bagnall/Shellfish Dept. Shellfish Update 3/28/14

