

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 4:30PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

Present: Acting Chair - Ryan Smith Les Baynes, Coop Gilkes,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,  
Others Marni Lipke - Recorder

Call meeting to order 4:53PM.

MINUTES

• ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED THE MAY 6, 2014, MINUTES WERE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- The summer staff Ralph Savery, Paul Shultz, and Ralph Peckham were being hired and trained.
- Staff was working on floats for the Majors Cove Oyster Project and would likely start air drying to clear bags of fouling.
- So far the season was not very busy, a few commercial fishermen were quahogging, and a few recreational quahoggers were seen in both Sengekontacket and Katama.
- Restaurant owners had been contacted about the new shellfish icing rules. Ryan Smith described the cumbersome and elaborate process of tagging, logging and icing oysters, maintaining 2 in. of ice on the bottom and between layers, and 3" on top, keeping within the two hour limit, on the boat, re-icing on the truck and then transferring again at his home, etc. Shipping off-Island meant growers were working with large quantities which increased the complexity of the task, one of those things that was much more difficult to implement than it sounded on paper. The Committee was somewhat overwhelmed at the increasing regulation and paperwork involved in both recreational and commercial fishing. Coop's Bait and Tackle Shop had to file six reports weekly.

Chappaquiddick Nursery

- Staff was working on the tanks and some leaks, everything else was going smoothly.

OLD BUSINESS

Middle Flats Aquaculture Area (See documents on file.)

- The Selectmen's public hearing was posted for 4:00PM Monday, June 16th (see below: Meetings). The matter would then return to the Conservation Commission.

Edgartown Shellfish Committee  
May 20, 2014

2

- **LES BAYNES MOVED THE SECOND READING OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE POLICY THAT ALL LEASES WITHIN THE TOWN'S 2014 PRE-APPROVED MIDDLE FLATS/OUTER HARBOR TWENTY (20) ACRE AQUACULTURE PLOTS BE NO MORE THAN TWO (2) ACRES EACH; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Leland/Shifter Agreement - See below: Actions.

It was on the Agenda of the Selectmen's meeting which was canceled, and then Biologist and Constable Paul Bagnall was on vacation for two weeks. The letter was returned unopened and without signature, however technically they had been served. The Committee considered that although they would continue to pursue it the matter rested with the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC).

- Ray's boat broke down and was still undergoing repairs so Edgartown's 130 bags for the quahog relay might be lost—too long a delay could endanger the quahogs, which get vibrio too.
- The long Edgartown Great Pond opening caught a run of fish, stocking the Pond. The drought in May meant it was not jumping back as usual, although it gained about a 1/2" a day on spring water. The next cut might be delayed until August, which was the most important opening.

NEW BUSINESS

There were two candidates for the Committee vacancy: Atria Restaurant chef Christian Thornton and Roger Beech, a lifetime visitor and permanent resident, also interested in the Ponds Committee. After some discussion there was a general consensus that representation from the consumer end of the fishing industry would be a valuable asset.

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO RECOMMEND CHRISTIAN THORNTON BE APPOINTED TO THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

New Chair and Vice Chair

- **LES BAYNES NOMINATED RYAN SMITH AS CHAIR OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE THAT A VICE CHAIR WAS NOT NEEDED.**

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**May 20, 2014**

3

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30 PM, June 3, 2014, July 1, 2014, August 5, 2014 at the Town Barn
- Middle Flats Aquaculture Selectmen - 4:00 PM, Monday June 16, 2014 Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done:**

- Chair/Paul - Pursue Leland/Shifter with Selectmen & MVC.
- Paul - if no urgent business, check with members and cancel July 1st meeting.
- Ryan - bring in logbook for Committee to see.

**Ongoing Actions**

- Paul- attend Dredge Committee meetings as possible.

**Documents on file:**

- Agenda 5/20/14
- Middle Flats Aquaculture Site proposed map
- Kessler/DMF letter re: funding recreational saltwater fishing opportunities