

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, June 3, 2014, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Barn

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

The meeting was called to order 4:36PM and the Committee welcomed new member Christian Thornton of Atria Restaurant, who was happy to be participating; as a chef he had a lot of respect for the industry.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- Deputy Constables Warren Gaines and Rob Morrison were putting out the quahog rafts, and had received and washed 500,000 quahog seed for the Chappaquiddick Nursery.
- They were also getting the hang of air-drying the Major's Cove Oysters bags to rid them of sponge and bought samples of last year's seeding to pass around. This year's batch of seed would be ready for pick up next week. A 400 lb mushroom was being delivered. Dave Grunden was building the Oak Bluffs upweller.
- There were four fishermen quahogging in Sengekontacket getting about three or four bushels each.
- Scallop spawning preparations were under way at the Chappaquiddick Nursery.
- Marine Biologist and Constable Paul Bagnall reported later in the meeting that summer staffers Paul Shultz and Ralph Savery started Memorial Day and Ralph Peckham started today. Peter Jackson continued to do great work on the Oyster Project, and reports were that oysters were a big hit among recreational fishers in Sengekontacket.
- There was a brief discussion on keeping Sengekontacket healthy and the shift of families and fishermen to Katama whenever Sengekontacket closed.
- Oak Bluffs was planning a major dredge—inside and outside—of the Little Bridge channel.

OLD BUSINESS

Leland Shifter Water Sampling Agreement - See below: Actions.

The matter was on the Selectmen's agenda for Monday/Tuesday but Town Administrator Pam Dolby contacted Mr. Leland and all previous documents/ letters were faxed to him. He said this was the first he'd heard of the responses and did not seem adverse to allowing the Town to hold the money.

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Chappaquiddick Nursery

The facility was functioning and the spawn from the Vineyard Haven Hatchery were set. Adult scallops were being gathered to use in spawning which would start right after July 4th, when the water temperature was warmer.

Qahog Relay

Other sources were tried after Ray's breakdown (see 5/20/14 Minutes p. 2) but it was clear that this spring's batch would be delayed until the September. The Committee talked about

- mainland towns with much larger relays,
- price per bag,
- imminent icing rules for quahogs,
- status of family plots with shellfish from last year.
- The current Environmental Police Officer (EPO) was very strict, measuring every shellfish in a catch. He did not issue warnings and the Katama parking lot had been cleared of all boat trailers in a single day.
- The Committee asked about rebuilding the public access ramp, since the temporary structure built after 1991 Hurricane Bob was in terrible shape (see below: Actions).
- There was a good set of oysters in Edgartown Great Pond.

Middle Flats Aquaculture Area

The Selectmen's secretary asked for the total acreage of the ten lots (including buffers) and the Selectmen Hearing date was set (see below: Meetings).

• **LES BAYNES MOVED THE THIRD AND FINAL 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; DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—DONALD BENEFIT.**

Donald Benefit felt this would restrict the recreational area for bonito fishing, yacht club sails, derby fishing and conching (see below: Tasks).

NEW BUSINESS

Wet Storage

Vineyard Haven was having trouble with people wet storing shellfish—some for extended periods. The State was reported as not having a problem with the practice. Edgartown regulations forbade commercial wet storage but not family/recreational—for one thing it would be very difficult to enforce. Staff always advised against it but it was sometimes difficult to save people from themselves.

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Meetings/Events

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

ADJOURNMENT

• RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:18PM; DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done:

- All - attend Public Hearing on Middle Flats - 4PM Monday, June 16, 2014.
- Warren/Rob - give Christian and Ryan a tour of the Chappaquiddick Nursery.
- Ryan/Paul - ask Selectmen and Ed Handy to ask State (Jack Shephard) re: rebuild Katama public access ramp, and move 2 big rock obstacles at low tide.
- Paul -- **Call Donald Benefit when State/DMF comes down for Middle Flats survey.**

July/August Agenda

- Minutes: 5/20/14, 6/3/14
- Edgartown Great Pond Opening Update

Ongoing Actions

- Paul- attend Dredge Committee meetings as possible.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 6/3/14