

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Les Baynes, Cooper Gilkes,
Christian Thornton,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall,
Others: Marni Lipke - Recorder

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATIONS FOR ANGIE FISHER AND LEANAH FISHER.
- PENDING PRESENTATION OF THEIR STATE LICENSING CARDS TO TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT KRISTY ROSE AND WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATIONS FOR JARED FISHER AND FRANCIS FISHER III.

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Quahog Relay Update

After canceling last week's order the Relay shipment had finally arrived so Shellfish Biologist and Constable Paul Bagnall had to leave at 5:00 to spread quahogs.

Vibrio Update

The regional Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) meeting on Vibrio set a schedule for next year's season. It was hoped all new regulations would be presented to local municipalities by at least the beginning of April to allow Departments and aquaculture workers time to prepare. Although communications with DMF were better Dept. of Public Health (DPH) did not inform locals until cases were confirmed (a three week process) pretty much too late to take action—so it was hoped the Shellfish Dept. would be informed when the process started and the location implicated. Another Katama Vibrio case was confirmed on September 27th (and one in Dennis about September 25th).

- University of New Hampshire (UNH) Professor Steve Jones was splitting sample costs so the Shellfish Dept. was only being charged \$150-200 per sample. This included not only fermentation for most probable number but also ribotyping for toxic strains. The Dept. felt it could expend about \$5,000 in FY15 funds.

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NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Budget Personnel & Operating (See documents on file.)

Major's Cove Oyster Project

The Committee reviewed and discussed a letter of request to the Selectmen for an additional 20 hour/week deputy position to support the Major's Cove Oyster Project.

To fund the salary the Department could restructure its budget by:

- using and maybe adding \$4,000 to the \$20,000 for contract labor (in the FY15 Budget)
- and cutting one seasonal deputy for another \$6,000.
- The Committee suggested a number of talking points.
- The labor intensive Major's Cove Project was stressing the already overworked staff.
- The oysters were so popular customers came back to Cooper Gilkes shop with big smiles to tell him about their catch. The Committee lamented that the summer residents were not around to express their enthusiasm.
- The Project was a part of nitrogen reduction for the Mass. Estuaries Project (MEP) recommendations.
- Department staff had remained stable at three positions for at least 25 years despite changes to the industry: including propagation and aquaculture.

MINUTES

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2014, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 MINUTES AND TO ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 7, 2014 NOTES; COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.**

OLD BUSINESS

Bay Scallop Season Update

The Committee discussed the Recreational (Family) season, in particular whether a commercial license holder could sell a family mess. Local regulations prohibited this (see 9/16/14 Minutes p. 2-3 and 10/7/08 Minutes p. 1), but past practice was still holding.

- Additionally it was felt the family season should be restored to at least a full month by starting the season earlier or by delaying or forbidding commercial dragging in Family Only areas.
- The Committee felt that anyone taking two family messes (as in "could I get one for my Grandmother too?") should deliver the mess to a Constable or Deputy who would deliver it to the relative in question.
- It was noted that in China the entire scallop was fried and eaten—not just the muscle.
- Commercial scallop tagging was briefly mentioned.

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NEW BUSINESS

Leland/Shifter Water Sampling Agreement – Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:43PM; COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meetings/Events

- Selectmen – 4:00 PM, Monday, October 27, 2014 – Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish – 4:30 PM, Tuesdays, November 4 & 18, 2014 – Town Hall

Actions To Be Done:

- All – talk up and contact press (MV Times) re: Majors Cove oyster harvest.
- All – attend Monday 10/27 Selectmen meeting re: new position.
- Paul – talk to Pam Dolby re: new deputy position.
- Marni – edit / bullet the draft letter to Selectmen and email to members by Thursday.
- Paul – educate fishermen re: prohibition on selling family mess.

November Agenda

- Minutes: 10/21/14
- Confirmatory vote on Commercial Shellfish Applications
- Budget/salary discussion on Major's Cove Oyster Project position
- Leland Shifter
- Vibrio Update

Ongoing Actions

- Ryan/Paul – ask Selectmen and Ed Handy to ask State (Jack Shephard) re: rebuilding Katama public access ramp, and moving 2 big rock obstacles.
- Paul – attend Dredge Committee meetings as possible.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 10/21/14
- Majors Cove Oyster Project 10/21/14