

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Wednesday, November 5, 2014, 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair - Ryan Smith, Les Baynes, Donald Benefit,
Cooper Gilkes, Christian Thornton,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
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 JULIA SMITH AND LAURIE PERRY.
- PENDING NOTARY PUBLIC VERIFICATION IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH TO AUTHORIZE COMMITTEE CHAIR RYAN SMITH TO SIGN THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATION FOR BRYAN ABRAHAMSON.
- Later in the meeting IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO CONFIRM CHAIR RYAN SMITH'S SIGNATURE OF COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING APPLICATIONS FOR KATI JOHNSON, SARAH MCLANE, AND NICHOLAS VIERA (see 10/7/14 Notes p. 1).

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Bay Scallop Season Update

- The season was off to a great start, fishermen were bringing in limits by 8:30AM or earlier with top days at 30 limits; big scallops, big quantity and big price. Thanks went to Shellfish Constable and Biologist Paul Bagnall and the Committee for opening early, beating the weather and gaining the first market for extra profits. Recreational license holders were also very happy with the scallop, quahog and oyster mix.
- The Committee discussed good fishing spots as well as the state of the scallop seed. There was some shellfish wash up from the last storm that were moved to the family area.
- Coop Gilkes praised the oyster harvest and the Shellfish dept. to the Vineyard Gazette reporter covering the season opening.
- Donald Benefit and Deputy Rob Morrison reported that 100 containers of scallops were donated to Anchors Senior Center for Edgartown residents last week (the harvest was split with the cutters)—the season was likely to thin out by Christmas.

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- Later in the meeting it was decided that the checkout would be shifted to the Chappaquiddick Nursery in the afternoon when the Deputies were working there.
- The Major's Cove Upweller was out of the water and stored at the Shellfish Barn. Deputies were working to get all the 2014 oysters into 1500 5/8" mesh bags - half with about 350 each for spring/summer distribution and half with about 250 for September / October distribution (see also below: FY16 Budget).
- The Committee took note that although the Department had been working on the project for a year the public was now enjoying and talking about the results.
- Oak Bluffs would eventually start their share of the project (see 10/2/12 Minutes p. 3) but currently lacked funds and staff.

MINUTES

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 21, 2014 MINUTES; COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION - DONALD BENEFIT** due to absence.

OLD BUSINESS

- In an effort to be more proactive the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and Department of Public Health (DPH) would hold a Vibrio Safety Protocol meeting with all Island Shellfish Constables and growers Monday, November 24th (see below: Meetings and Actions).
- Another set of samples was sent off to the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and found to have only one or no vibrio organisms. In addition the State requested some sediment samples from under the aquaculture cages to test theories of winter hibernation in the anoxic mud (with rejuvenation and multiplication at 65°-70°F water temperature).
- Paul Bagnall spent a day with the DMF representative sampling Cape Pogue, the Inner and Outer Harbor, Katama, and Sengekontacket for fecal coliform levels.
- Cormorants were moving towards Sheer Pen, in pursuit of the little flounders.

Leland/Shifter Water Sampling Agreement

Paul Bagnall again discussed the matter with Town Administrator Pam Dolby, and it was felt another letter was in order (see below: Actions).

Chappaquiddick Nursery

The Nursery was mostly put to bed for the winter; the Deputies would drain the fresh water by Saturday.

Middle Flats Aquaculture Area

Nothing had been done since DMF surveyed the Scheffer plots (see 9/2/14 Minutes p. 2 and below: Actions).

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- Edgartown Great Pond (getting good and high with salinity at 15ppt) was scheduled to be cut Friday, November 7th, in anticipation of a good nor'easter.

Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) Budget

- The Department and Committee presentation on the third Deputy position for Major's Cove was well received at the Selectmen's meeting, but nothing further had been heard. The Committee agreed to move forward and include the new position at 30 hrs./week in the draft FY16 Shellfish budget articles—due November 20th.
- The position could be partially funded with the \$20,000 now used to hire an independent contractor for Major's Cove (see 9/3/13 Minutes p. 2) and \$6,000 from the summer intern line.
- It was clear that the Oyster Project was increasingly popular with Edgartown residents.
- The FY15 Budget (\$44,000) was reviewed and adjusted.
- Less expenditure on spat bags (\$2,500) to be balanced by more on testing (\$7,000).
- Storm washup moving (\$5,000), Major's Cove oyster seed (\$2,500) Chappaquiddick Nursery (\$8,000) were unchanged.
- The staff proposed the Department purchase a heavy trailer for easier handling of shellfish and culch, use of boxes, stacking and totes rather than bags. It would also eliminate dump truck fees and allow the Department itself to pick up the quahog relay. Paul Bagnall proposed the money be wrapped into the softshell clam seed (\$3,000), oyster culch (\$5,000), the quahog relay (\$12,000) line items.
- Oak Bluffs Shellfish Constable Dave Grunden applied for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for salt marsh restoration along the Felix Neck Sengekontacket Pond shore and Paul Bagnall was costing out the Edgartown share. The Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) was piloting a similar project in Trapps Pond, along with some nitrogen testing.
- The Committee liked the idea of partnering with Oak Bluffs in the project.
- The MVSG Board of Directors asked for \$1,000 more for FY16 bringing the Edgartown share to \$37,000.
- Friends of Sengekontacket, Inc. (FOS) was considering funding a summer intern.

NEW BUSINESS

- The staff were very concerned about decreased Sengekontacket flushing which was the result of continuing sand fill in the Little Bridge channel.
- There was some competition for space between windsurfers running timing trials and fishermen. Windsurfers needed to talk to Harbormaster Charlie Blair on scheduling and course layout.
- Paul Bagnall received a favorable evaluation and was commended by the Personnel Board.

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ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:34PM; COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meetings/Events

- DMF/DPH - Shellfish Safety - 1:15 PM, Monday, November 24, 2014 - VH Library
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30 PM, Tuesdays, November 18 & December 2, 2014 - Town Hall

Actions To Be Done:

- All - attend Vibrio/Safety meeting 1:15–3:15, Monday 11/24/14 Vineyard Haven Library.
- Ryan - ask around about DMF Middle Flats plot surveys.
- Paul - contact the MVC re; another Leland/Shifter letter.
- Paul - work out salt marsh restoration figures for next meeting.
- Paul - consider nitrogen testing to document Major's Cove Oyster Project results.

November Agenda

- Minutes: 11/5/14

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 11/5/14