

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, December 16, 2014 4:30PM
Edgartown Town Hall

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:35PM.

MINUTES

• **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 18, 2014 AND DECEMBER 2, 2014 MINUTES; CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT.**

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- The Deputies were taking advantage of the nice weather, thinning and air drying the Major's Cove oysters. This crop was better than the last and the winch made it possible for seed to stay longer in the upweller.
- All were invited to the Town Holiday Party (see below: Meetings).

Bay Scallop Season Update

About 20 boats were bringing in 35 to 40 limits, taking a little longer, coming in around 10:00AM. There was not much pushback on the temperature change.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Although there was no formal vote the Personnel Board agreed to write an article regarding the third deputy, estimating payroll benefits at the high end. The Committee discussed the presentation of the proposal in light of the four-year hiring freeze:

- as additional hours for an existing worker,
- as necessary support for the Major's Cove Oyster Farm,
- popularity and benefit of oysters,
- continued need for two lower paid summer interns to cover Sengekontacket and the Katama Landing,
- increased duties: enforcement, aquaculture, spawning, propagation, vibrio, etc.
- Shellfish as still 1.2% of the Town budget.

• With the reduction of summer help to \$8,000 and the Propagation Article to \$44,000, if the position was not approved the Department would be severely strained.

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- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADOPT THE BUDGET AS REVISED BY HUMAN RESOURCES AND THE SELECTMEN'S OFFICE; COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Leland/Shifter Water Sampling Agreement

In a further attempt to begin testing in 2015 another "softer" letter was drafted (see documents on file and below: Actions).

NEW BUSINESS

Removal of Cement Duck Blinds Edgartown Great Pond

The Town was looking to remove these 30 year old blinds, which were no longer in use. Hunters now used boats camouflaged with straw. The submersion of the blinds highlighted the changes in the Pond over the last 40 years.

- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE THAT THE DUCK BLINDS COULD BE REMOVED.**
- Edgartown Great Pond closed up Saturday, December 13th after a two-week opening resulting in salinity at 26 ppt, at the Boulevard Landing and 28 ppt. at the Sluiceway.

Meetings

- Holiday Party - 4:00-6:00 PM, Wednesday, December 17, 2014 - Firemen's Museum
- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM Tuesdays, January 6 & 20, 2015 at Town Hall
- FinCom Hearing - 4:20 PM, Thursday, January 8, 2015 - Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:07PM; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done :

- Paul/Ryan/Les - ask MVC what they're doing about Leland/Schifter enforcement.
- Marni - edit and email Schifter letter and add MVC to cc. list.
- All - attend 1/8/14 FinCom hearing on proposed FY16 Shellfish Budget.
- Marni/Paul - work on Shellfish office paperwork organization in January.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 12/16/14

continued

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Documents on file (continued):

- Dolby/Selectmen memo re: Budget Hearings, Town Meeting, Town Reports, 12/15/14
- Town of Edgartown Budget Analysis - Waterways (2 p.) 12/12/14
- 2015 Annual Town Meeting Article - \$9,697.19 Salt Marsh Remediation
- 2015 Annual Town Meeting Article - \$37,000 Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group
- 2015 Annual Town Meeting Article - Shellfish Committee acceptance of gifts or grants
- 2015 Annual Town Meeting Article - \$44,000 Shellfish Committee programs (2 p.)
- Draft letter to Schifter 12/16/14