

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 7:00PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

Present: Chair – Jack Blake, Les Baynes, Donald Benefit, Coop Gilkes,  
Ryan Smith,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison  
Others: Ray Auger, Bill Dunn, Gary Look,  
Marni Lipke – Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 7:01PM.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR JACK BLAKE TO SIGN THE COMMERCIAL ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR BILL DUNN.

- Mr. Dunn could find the State permit on line.

MINUTES

• **COOP GILKES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 19, 2013 MINUTES: LES BAYNES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLES' REPORTS

Scallop season wrapped up last week with about 6-8 fishermen going out, some catching limits in Shear Pena and Pocha Pond.

• Deputies were working with Jack Blake on the Major's Cove hybrid upweller.

• The Committee praised the staff for their handling of the Briggs citation and testimony at the Board of Selectmen meeting. There was a general sense that Mr. Briggs continued to be confused as to shellfishing regulations and did not understand that paying the fine would clear the violation.

- The Selectmen were offended by David Viera's absence, and he now had till Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> to pay his fines (see below: Actions).

- The Committee also discussed Sandy Fisher's problems with his floats and equipment breaking loose and becoming hazards and nuisances. Mr. Fisher was notified by a dock owner to remove his raft and an abutter asked that his upweller be retrieved from an adjoining beach (see below: Actions).

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OLD BUSINESS

Majors' Cove Oyster Project

The hybrid upweller was coming along. If necessary riparian owner Carl Sherr was enthusiastic about the project and had a dock at the end of the Cove.

- Jack Blake was unable to find his 500 lb mushroom and a new one was needed.
- There were enough small mesh bags but the larger mesh should be ordered (see below: Actions).

Waiting List for Katama

The Wait List was approved and would be advertised in the Gazette for two weeks beginning either April 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>.

Leland DRI Conditions (See 12/18/12 Minutes p. 2 and below: Actions.)

Marine Advisory Board Chair Gary Look pushed for action on the Leland testing configurations, which the Shellfish Committee had been talking about for four months. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of hiring consultants:

- ease of convenience, much higher costs, finite results, versus purchasing equipment with Town staff monitoring:
- extra labor for the staff, use of equipment for other situations, lower testing costs.
- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE:**
- **THAT THE TOWN OF EDGARTOWN AND THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION SHOULD DICTATE THE PARAMETERS OF THE TESTING IN PARTICULAR THE FREQUENCY AND TYPE; AND,**
- **THAT TESTING SHOULD BEGIN THIS SUMMER; AND,**
- **TO MEET WITH THE MARINE ADVISORY BOARD AT ITS APRIL 10, 2013 MEETING.**

NEW BUSINESS

The Selectmen asked the Shellfish Committee to take responsibility for the Fishermen's Depot. A massive effort to clean up the lots was nearing completion. Donald Benefit and his crew had been very active in removing abandoned, trash, hazmat, cinder block, metal debris and deer carcasses from the land, including returning someone's illegally dumped trash to their yard. The gates were now locked and access restricted by trees and brush. The committee considered a number of issues (see below: Actions).

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- Previous regulations included:
  - 50 ft. by 100 ft. plots with a 100 ft. buffer at the main road,
  - use by marine based businesses only,
  - no dumping of cars, oils, batteries, bottom paints, or other hazardous materials,
  - owners responsible for their own lots.
- Maintenance costs should be monitored for a year and estimated for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) budget.
  - Clean up costs included \$1,100 for the gate, \$6,000 for disposal of abandoned boats taken from Sengekontacket Pond, as well as hauling and dumpster costs and not counting in-kind labor donations.
- To break the perception of the site as a free dump, the Highway Department should be called immediately to remove all trash left in front of the gate.
- Abandoned boats should be taken to the Highway Sand Pit.
- Deer carcass disposal remained a massive health problem.

Summer Deputies

The positions were advertised, and Peter Jackson Jr. had been hired.

Financial Update

- About \$27,000 remained in FY13 funds. The following expenses were projected:
  - The upweller was coming in under budget at about \$2,000, with
  - about \$4,000 for oyster seed for the Major's Cove project, (to be reimbursed pending passage of the Town Meeting warrant article).
  - Quahog relay paperwork was finished and costs estimated at \$13,000. Distribution was slated for the last week of April / beginning of May at 130 bushels a day. For the next two years the areas to the right and the left of the ramp in Katama were designated for family permits only,
  - Another \$4,000 would go to Chappaquiddick Nursery operation and maintenance.
- The Shellfish Committee had three articles on this year's Town meeting warrant:
  - the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) assessment,
  - the Majors Cove Oyster Project, and
  - the Edgartown Shellfish Committee Budget.

Dredge Committee Update

Les Baynes reported on his first meeting with the Dredge Committee and there was a discussion on several points.

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- The Dredge Committee had no objections to dredging Sengekontacket by Felix Neck.
- The Pond Committee would ask the Town to pay for the operation of the little dredge in Edgartown Great Pond.
- In order for cuts to be effective (see 3/19/13 Minutes p. 3) the Shellfish Committee maintained that the massive delta in Edgartown Great Pond needed to be demolished, a job that could only be done by the large dredge (see below: Actions).
- The most popular dredge work would be to restore Fuller Street beach.
- Dredge spoils were needed on many Island beaches but trucking costs were prohibitive.

Meetings/Events

- Annual Town Meeting – 7:00PM Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at Town Hall
- Marine Advisory – 3:00PM, Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish – 7:00PM Tuesdays, April 16 & May 7, 2013 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:17PM; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done :**

- Paul – send Edgartown Great Pond Dredge letter to Les ASAP.
- Paul/Warren/Rob – notify David Viera of Friday 4/5/13 fine deadline.
- Paul – letter to Sandy Fisher re: upweller, raft, floats returned to lot by 4/15.
- All – attend Marine Advisory meeting 3PM 4/10/13 at Town Hall.
- Paul – talk to Sheri Caseau re: Leland DRI.
- Jack – research and draft Fishermen's depot responsibilities, budget, concerns.
- Paul/Warren/Rob – order 1500 5/8 square mesh bags from Catch'em.
- Need a 500 lb mushroom.
- Paul/Jack – send Marni electronic copies of depot and shellfish regulations

**Ongoing Actions**

- Paul – submit written deputy reports and hours folder at each meeting.

**Documents on file:**

- Agenda 4/2/13