

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

Present: Chair – Jack Blake, Les Baynes, Donald Benefit, Ryan Smith,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines,  
Others: Ray Auger, Doug Benefit, Alex Friedman, Steve Kuehne,  
Kristy Rose, Julia Smith  
Marni Lipke – Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM.

• MINUTES

• **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 2, 2013 AND APRIL 16, 2013 MINUTES: RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

The Aquaculture Plot Wait List having been duly advertised and all applications being in order:

• **WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR JACK BLAKE SIGNED THE AQUACULTURE SHELLFISHING APPLICATIONS OF RAY AUGER, ALEX FRIEDMAN, AND JULIA SMITH.**

- All signed applications should be delivered to Kristy Rose tomorrow May 8, 2013 with the \$20 Wait List processing fee.

• There was a discussion on whether the lottery to determine Wait List order should be chosen now or when a plot became available. Kristy Rose as the keeper of the list at Town Hall expressed a preference for a lottery at the application date. Consequently the lottery was held and the order determined as follows:

1. RAY AUGER
2. ALEX FRIEDMAN
3. JULIA SMITH

DEPUTIES/CONSTABLE'S REPORT

• The Deputies put in significant time making bags for the Major's Cove Oyster Propagation Project.

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- They posted the family area in Katama. The Trustees of Reservation opened two walking accesses points. Warren Gaines reported minimal activity, and a good crop of diggable razor clams in the same area.
- The Sengekontacket seasonal closure signs were also posted; the Pond being opened/closed on the same basis as last summer (see 5/15/12 Minutes p. 2).
- Over the last couple days the pumps had been turned on at the Chappaquiddick Nursery and a large fridge installed.
- There had not been time to check the aquaculture plot boundaries and any out of plot cultivation/culling (see 4/16/13 Minutes p. 1 and below: Actions).
- The Quahog Relay was scheduled for Monday-Wednesday, May 13-15, staff to leave on the 8:15 ferry and return on the 2:45 with 130 bags per day (see below: Actions).
- Shellfish Biologist Paul Bagnall attended the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) meeting at the Mass Maritime Academy and reported that fishermen/aquaculture farmers had to keep all oysters in/on ice from immediately after harvest till market delivery (a 24 hr, window).

**OLD BUSINESS**

Majors' Cove Oyster Project (See documents on file and also above.)

The upweller would be painted after the current spate of rain days. A punch list had been generated but a timeline was needed.

- Edgartown Great Pond was at bare minimum depth with salinity at only 10ppt, and all were hoping for rain. The spring opening was scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- There was a discussion on last season's high water temperatures as a possible cause of the massive seed die off.

Leland Agreement

The Selectmen approved the letter to Mr. Leland (see documents on file) which would now be passed on to the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) counsel (see below: Actions).

**NEW BUSINESS**

Kristy Rose Selectmen's Office Licensing Issues

For efficiency sake Kristy Rose asked that license years be shifted from May.

- **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE THAT COMMERCIAL AND FAMILY SHELLFISH LICENSES RUN FROM APRIL 1 TO MARCH 31 EACH YEAR WITH THE TRANSITION YEAR EXTENDED TO ACCOMMODATE THE DIFFERENCE.**

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Financial Update

Having paid outstanding bills to Cottles and for the oyster propagation bags the Shellfish Committee had \$15,000 remaining in their Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) funds. However expenses for the Major's Cove project were expected to be reimbursed from the Major's Cove warrant article funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- As noted above there was a substantial steamer clam seed die-off last year which will effect this year's harvest. In addition to temperature, algae night oxygen uptake probably further stressed the seed.
- **LES BAINES MOVED TO OPEN EDGARTOWN GREAT POND TO CLAMMING EXCEPT FOR SEED AREAS AND THE OYSTER SANCTUARY FOR TWO (2) LEVEL (UNDER THE HANDLES) WASHBASKETS PER DAY;**
  - **MAY 15-31, 2012 TWO (2) DAYS PER WEEK - WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY,**
  - **JUNE 1-30, 2012 THREE (3) DAYS PER WEEK - MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY;**
  - **JULY 1, - SEPTEMBER 30, 2012 FIVE (5) DAYS PER WEEK;**
- **RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
- The Committee discussed dredging Edgartown Great Pond at some length including:
  - logistics of big and little dredges,
  - channel depth and location,
  - delta problems,
  - relations to cut duration, timelines and inability to backfill once done,
  - salinity levels for eelgrass, fish (including herring and perch) as well as for shellfish,
  - riparian resident issues.
- To better engage public support and understanding, Les Baynes recommended that the general health of the Pond be emphasized in discussing all cuts and dredges, stressing issues of swimming, boating, algae wash out, and other important factors in addition to fishing and shellfishing factors.

Meetings

- Edg. Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at the Town Barn
- Edg. Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesday, July 2, & August 6, 2013 at the Town Barn

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**• DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:17PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done :**

- All – help with quahog relay at Sengekontacket Big Bridge 5/13, 14, 15.
- Paul/Warren/Rob – spring check of aquaculture plot boundaries and offsite culling
- Paul/Jack – draft Major’s Cove Oyster Project timeline.
- Paul/Kristy –note and announce change in license dates.
- Paul – contact Paul Foley at the MVC re: Leland letter.
- Paul/Jack/Ryan – buy cages from Dick Diamond.
- Ryan – show cages to staff.

**Ongoing Actions**

- Paul – submit written deputy reports and hours folder at each meeting.
- Warren/Rob – Report log at each Committee Meeting
- Public hearing on oyster minimum / maximum size when /if there is an oyster season.

**Documents on file:**

- Agenda 5/7/13
- Sign In Sheet 5/7/13
- Punch List for Oyster Project
- Bagnall cover letter re: Leland Agreement draft letter 5/6/13
- Draft Edg. Shellfish Committee Leland response letter 4/16/13
- Leland letter re: Poucha Pond South Subdivision, Chappaquiddick (4 p.) 1/28/13