

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, November 5, 2013 7:00PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

Present: Chair – Jack Blake, Donald Benefit, Cooper Gilkes, Ryan Smith  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,  
Others: Dan Donnelly, Jeremy Scheffer,  
Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM.

MINUTES

• **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 15, 2013 MINUTES: DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS—COOP GILKES, RYAN SMITH** due to absence.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

This application for a two acre aquaculture plot next to the previous Outer Harbor/Middle Flats plot application (see 10/1/13 Minutes p. 1) raised the issue of bundling Outer Harbor applications for a single survey/application to the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and Army Corps of Engineers. The Committee debated:

- unproductive bottom designation, including conchs, eelgrass, etc.
- leaving room for conch pots (oyster farms usually attracted conchs),
- size of the area to be surveyed (for example, 12 two acre plots),
- use of the area for various forms of aquaculture: kelp, muscles, etc.
- permitting procedures for single or bundled plots (see below: Actions).

• **WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR JACK BLAKE SIGNED A TWO ACRE OUTER HARBOR/MIDDLE FLATS AQUACULTURE LEASE APPLICATION FOR JEREMY SCHEFFER.**

DEPUTIES/CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Commercial Bay Scallop Update (See documents on file.)

- The season started on Monday November 4<sup>th</sup> with about ten boats catching slow or slack limits as predicted, mostly in Cape Pogue. The second day was slower than the first. Some oysters were found among the mix and could be taken if over 3 inches.
- The deputies brought in oyster and quahog seed examples for the Committee. All the quahog rafts were out in Sengekontacket along with the last six gravel boxes (5,000 quahog seed each).
- The Major's Cove Project cages would be winter staked against ice movement.

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**November 5, 2013**

2

OLD BUSINESS

Chappaquiddick Nursery

- Consultations with Mark Landon and Building Inspector Lenny Jason found serious rot in the northeast exterior wall that might cause catastrophic collapse in an extended nor'easter. The building could not be replaced due to prohibitive zoning restrictions and high costs. Repairs and permitting were discussed and resolved. The floor joists were in good shape as was the inside box (the construction was 4x4 posts spiked together).
- At the suggestion of Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) Water Resource Planner Sheri Caseau, Shellfish Biologist Constable Paul Bagnall proposed applying for a Community Innovation Challenge Grant to equip and repair the building as a hatchery. The project (no matching funds required) fit the grant parameters perfectly as an innovation in an existing regional service with Edgartown as the lead town for the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG). The application would itemize equipment and building renovation including the removal of the glass windows, now outdated and a hurricane hazard (see below: Actions).
- **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO SUPPORT THE APPLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANT; COOPER GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Leland/Schifter Agreement - There was nothing new to report (see below: Actions).

NEW BUSINESS

Town Meeting Articles / Budget Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) (See documents on file.)

- An article would replace a Department outboard motor with a 70hp compact for \$9,850.
- The Committee programs were level funded at \$44,000 including: shellfish disease testing, scallop seed growth / spat bags, scallop seed moving, soft shell clam seed, oyster culch, quahog relay, Chappaquiddick Nursery, and, at the Committee's suggestion, Major's Cove Project oyster seed.
- The MVSG membership assessment article was level funded at \$36,000. The Town more than made up for costs in MVSG seed allotment value as well as its valuable services.
- The usual article to authorize the acceptance of donations and grants would also be submitted.
- Paul Bagnall then proposed changes to the Department FY15 budget.
  - Extend Rob Morrison by eight hours (~\$11,000) to full time (40 hrs). Although last year summer staff was reduced to compensate for the extra hours, further cuts were not feasible. This summer's staff was excellent in enforcement, family permit relations, and propagation work.
  - Add a 30 hr. position (~\$35,000) with strong in-house candidate, Peter Jackson (see 9/3/13 Minutes p.2). Benefits began at 25 hrs/wk.

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**November 5, 2013**

3

- These increases were deemed necessary to cover the increased propagation work (Chappaquiddick, Major's Cove, etc.), on top of the continuing enforcement.
- Other considerations noted were:
- Shellfish Budget as less than 2% of the Town Budget, and
  - Edgartown waters accounting for 65% of the shellfish resources on the Island; and
  - the immediacy of oyster propagation nitrogen remediation versus politically difficult and financially costly sewerage.

Meetings/Events

- Edgartown Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays, November 19, & December 3, 2013 at Town Hall
- Selectmen - 4:00PM Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at Town Hall
- FOS - 9:30AM Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at the MVC
- Selectmen - 4:00PM Monday, November 18, 2013 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **COOP GILKES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:14PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Actions To Be Done:**

- Paul/Jack - schedule & advertise Public Hearing on Middle Flats Outer Harbor oyster zone.
- Paul - call DMF re: same survey/permit protocol as Katama.
- Paul - contact Selectmen re: bundling Outer Harbor applications.
- Paul/Warren/Rob - winter stake Major's Cove cages to mushroom.
- Paul - order sinking line from Ketchum.
- Paul/Warren - contact Selectmen / letter re: Community Challenge Grant & 5 towns sign on.
- Jack/Warren - attend 11/12 Selectmen meeting re: lead town in Grant or call Warren.
- Paul - ask Emma Greenbeach/Amandine Surier re: drafting Challenge grant.
- Warren - attend 11/13 FOS meeting and/or talk to Patrick Parker.
- Jack - contact Gary Look re: Town Attorney consultation.
- All - attend 11/18 Selectmen's meeting re: FY15 Department Budget
- Jack/Paul - consider early scallop season closing to protect seed.

**Ongoing Actions**

- Paul/Jack - apply for CPA grant for Chappaquiddick Nursery in August/September.
- Paul/Warren/Rob - plant next Katama relay area closer to the boat ramp.
- Paul - attend Dredge Committee meetings as possible.

**continued >**

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**November 5, 2013**

4

**Documents on file:**

- Agenda 11/5/13
- Bagnall/Shellfish Dept. letter re: Roy Scheffer Aquaculture Hearing 10/28/13
- Mass. Administration and Finance Community Innovation Challenge Grant Program (2 p.)
- 2014 Annual Town Meeting Article - replace outboard
- 2014 Annual Town Meeting Article - MVSG membership
- 2014 Annual Town Meeting Article - Shellfish Committee
- 2014 Annual Town Meeting Article - Accept gifts and grants
- Seed Shellfish Distributed in 2013