

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, December 3, 2013 7:00PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair – Jack Blake, Les Baynes, Donald Benefit, Cooper Gilkes,
Ryan Smith
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Jason Bennett, Tricia Bergeron, Robbie Coad, Dan Donnelly,
Jeremy Scheffer,
Recorder – Marni Lipke

The meeting was called to order.

DEPUTIES/CONSTABLE'S REPORT

Commercial Bay Scallop Update

- The season was going reasonably well, with some areas producing more than others. Four boats went out today and six yesterday. All were getting their limits and the deputies found no one was dragging more than a 50/50 ratio of seed to adults.
- Shellfish Constable and Biologist Paul Bagnall presented the additional staff requests to the Personnel Board. The proposal was accepted but as there were no unusual hiring features it was passed on to the authority of the Selectmen (see below: Actions).
 - If approved as requested, the total Department salaries for Fiscal Year 2015 would increase to \$241,989 from \$195, 608 in FY14. Summer help was currently \$18,000 and might be reduced to \$10,000 to bring the total down.
 - The new position should cover the additional work involved in the Major's Cove Oyster Farm—assuming all oysters were shipped to Katama or harvested after one year.
- The Innovation Challenge Grant application was sent in and acknowledged as complete.

OLD BUSINESS

FY15 Budget

The FY15 Warrant Articles (see 11/5/13 Minutes p. 2-3) were submitted on deadline.

- \$36,000 Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) dues were up \$1,000. A cost analysis found \$35,000 FY13 dues brought in \$52,000 worth of eyed larvae, scallop and quahog seed.
- Other articles included the standard gift acceptance, the outboard motor replacement, and the level funded \$44,000 Propagation article as discussed.

- \$14,000 remained in the FY14 Propagation account earmarked for the quahog relay. The remaining \$35,000 in the Major's Cove account would also have to cover FY15, although some expenses had been paid from the Department budget and might be reimbursed.

Leland/Schifter Water Sampling Agreement

Chair Jack Blake spoke to Board of Health Agent Matt Poole who was ready to support the agreed actions (see below: Actions).

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NEW BUSINESS

Aquaculture Update - Jeremy Scheffer filed for a spot off Eel Pond.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- It was reported that the recently dredged part of Sengekontacket Pond was paved with scallops about 8 ft. down at low tide. Commercial and family fishers were currently getting their limit by dip netting and there was a request to put in drags. The Committee would investigate the area and consider the matter at their next meeting (see below: Actions). Weather, accessibility, and die off were noted as important factors. Dragging would quickly decimate the area and dirty the water so that no further dipping would be possible, so the Committee was inclined to wait till late in the season to allow any dragging.

- There were not enough scallops this season for Christmas gifting to Anchors Senior Center.

Meetings/Events

- Selectmen - 4:00PM Monday, December 9, 2013 at Town Hall
- Edgartown Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays, December 17, 2013 & January 7, 2014 at Town Hall
- FOS - 9:30AM Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at the MVC

ADJOURNMENT

- RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:28PM; COOP GILKES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done:

- All - attend Selectmen meeting re: new position, Monday, 12/9 at 4PM at Town Hall.
- Paul/Jack - contact Kris Vrooman/FOS re: letter supporting Major's Cove Oyster Farm staff.
- Paul - call Gary Look re: Leland/Shifter legal proceedings.
- Paul - check with Christy re: Sheffer Eel Pond aquaculture application.
- Paul/Warren/Rob - investigate Sengekontacket dredge area with Les and Coop.
- make sure scallops can't be reached by dipping before allowing drags.

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.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 12/3/13