

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, January 17, 2012 7:00PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair - Cooper Gilkes, Jack Blake, Ryan Smith
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines,
Others: Marni Lipke - Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 7:12PM.

MINUTES

• **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 20, 2011 MINUTES; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

NEW BUSINESS: FY2013 Budget hearing update.

Shellfish Warden Paul Bagnall reported that the budget meeting with the Selectmen went well, particularly as the Mass. Estuaries Program (MEP) future studies were not mentioned.

• The projected MEP studies for Oyster, Cape Pogue/ Pocha and Katama did come up at the Edgartown Ponds Committee meeting and met with some resistance re: involving too much bureaucracy, however Center for Martine Science and Technology (CMST) at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth had asked for some commitment by Spring 2012 in order to secure State funding (see 12/6/11 Minutes p. 2-3). It was very probable that the studies would eventually be required for all ponds and estuaries in the State.

• DEPUTIES' / CONSTABLE'S REPORTS

• At the combined meeting of the Joint Committee on Sengekontacket and the Friends of Sengekontacket (FOS) it was reported that the most financially expedient option to reduce nitrogen loading, was to sewer part of Trapps Pond and part of Major's Cove and to replace the Trapps Pond culvert. The Cow Bay Home Owners seemed willing to consider sewerage.

• NEW BUSINESS: Report on Soft Shell Clam Workshop 1/7/12

Paul Bagnall also met with representatives from the Salem State University Cat Cove Lab and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute Marine Biology Laboratory about soft shell clam seeding techniques.

• The Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) was still struggling with its deficit (see 11/15/11 Minutes p. 2) and was not likely to start seeding a new species.

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- OLD BUSINESS; Chappy Nursery/Roof Shingles

The main building needed a new roof and re-shingling. Zoning regulations required 30 year architect shingles which should be glued (as well as nailed) to withstand the windy location. The MVSG asked if the Edgartown Shellfish Department could fund the repair. The repairs were estimated to take two men, two to three days.

- Boo Basset was paid \$4-6,000 a year for plumbing repairs, spawning scallops and seasonal turn-ons.

- DEPUTY / CONSTABLES' REPORT.

Edgartown Great Pond was opened December 12, 2011 and closed January 3, 2012 in time for the brutal weather. Salinity was at 26 ppt.

- Shell Recycling Workshop 1/21/12.

There would be a shell recycling workshop for restaurants, caterers and fishermen this Saturday at the Wakeman Center from 11:00AM to 2:00PM.

- NEW BUSINESS;

Chair Coop Gilkes suggested the Department invest in some good aerial pictures of the Edgartown ponds. These could be posted in the office and used to mark various shellfish issues, boundaries, wash-ups, closings, sanctuaries, etc.

- These might be pricey if commissioned, but internet/Google or GPS photos might be blown up at a fraction of the cost.

- Framing would have to be carefully chosen. (see below: Actions).

- DEPUTIES' / CONSTABLES REPORTS

- OLD BUSINESS: Bay Scallop Closure Area Update

The Deputies reported that fishermen numbers were dwindling with only two boats going out today. The strong winds accounted for much of the drop off and an aquaculture raft had beached.

- The Committee discussed closures and in general it was considered that a boundary would be a line drawn from John Oliver's to the west side of North Hole. However in view of the above report **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO LEAVE THE CLOSURE TIMING TO THE DISCRETION OF THE SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT STAFF.**

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- A good Nor'easter would likely blow some seed from the west of the North Hole as well as up on the beach around Felix Neck.
- Jack Blake scattered some scallop seed that the Deputies gave him in the Harbor and was happy to report a very high survival rate.

Meetings: (at Edgartown Town Hall)

- Edgartown Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays February 7 and 21, 2012

Adjournment

- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:36PM; JACK BLAKE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - check out aerial photos both private commissions and on the internet.
 - consider good framing (*possibly with a surface that allows erasable marking*).
- Paul - bring 2011 minutes folder to 2/7 meeting for review and completion.

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 a season.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 1/17/12