

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

Present: Chair Cooper Gilkes, Jack Blake, Donald Benefit
Staff: Paul Bagnall, Rob Morrison,
Others: Jaime Pachico
Marni Lipke - Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

• MINUTES

• **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 3, 2012 AND JANUARY 17, 2012 MINUTES; DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• DEPUTIES' / CONSTABLE'S REPORTS

• OLD BUSINESS: Bay Scallop Closure Area Update

Shellfish Deputy Rob Morrison reported the closing of Cape Pogue from the Windmill to North Hole. As fishermen knew the area was full of big seed there were no infractions.

- An average of 6 fishermen were taking about 5 hours to get their limits daily. The number of boats varied with nice weather. The scallops were nice but small. Oak Bluffs also was still doing fine scalloping.

• Edgartown Great Pond water level was coming back well after the cut, but the mild weather had resulted in large mats of green algae which killed the clams.

• The Deputies replaced the signs in Sengekontacket as the old ones blew down.

• Rob Morrison went quahogging this weekend.

• COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

• The application having been notarized and completed as required,

• **WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR COOP GILKES SIGNED JAIME PACHICO'S COMMERCIAL ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION.**

• DEPUTIES' / CONSTABLE'S REPORTS

• The Selectmen approved Jeremy Scheffer's aquaculture plot (see 12/6/11 Minutes p. 1) and he was working with bags on the Pond bottom north of Roy Scheffer's site.

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- Shellfish Warden Paul Bagnall reported the Selectmen were fine with the Shellfish Dept. Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) Budget.
- He would contact the Selectmen and Town Administrator Pam Dolby regarding a Special Town Meeting warrant article for the Mass. Estuaries Project (MEP) studies (see 1/17/12 Minutes p. 1 and 12/6/11 Minutes p. 2-3 and below: Actions)

- NEW BUSINESS: Sengekontacket Closure Update

- The Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) still had to write up its shoreline sanitary survey.
- This summer the Family Relay Area test station flunked water quality testing once, but the station by Little Bridge flunked twice.
- Paul Bagnall informed DMF about Edgartown interest in opening Katama for family relay so that DMF could begin the year-long testing protocols.
- In response to Town resident requests heavy metal testing would be implemented (see 8/2/11 Minutes and below: Actions.)

- NEW BUSINESS:

- Donald Benefit proposed restocking Cracktuxet with herring from the Lagoon or from Aquinnah (see below: Actions). The Committee discussed the history of herring in the Pond, the moratorium, bottom silting, and the clearing of the Creek run.

- OLD BUSINESS; Chappaquiddick Nursery/Roof Shingles Update

Paul Bagnall hoped to catch the contractor for an estimate at the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) meeting tomorrow night February 8th.

- The Committee repeated its idea of large aerial photos of all the Edgartown Ponds for the Shellfish Office. It was hoped the photos could be framed with a markable/erasable surface that would allow staff to show closures, boundaries, aquaculture plots, etc. (see below: Actions)
- The Katama barrier beach breach caused by the 2007 storm had formed a substantial sandbar running towards Wasque that would push against/erode the beach and/or close the gap.

- The next meetings were scheduled for 7:00PM Tuesdays, February 21, 2012 and March 6, 2012 at the Town Hall.

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ADJOURNMENT

- **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:35PM; DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul -check with and write letter to DMF re: herring transfers to Cracktuxet.
- Paul -check re: deadline for warrant articles for MEP study petition.
- Paul- call Lab re: heavy metal testing.
- Paul/Warren - ask Joint Committee re aerial photos or pull off Google/GPS.
- Paul - email DMF re: advance notice of Sengekontacket closure status.
- Coop - get Ray Long's resignation email.

February 21, 2012 Agenda

- Petition re: formal vote to put MEP Studies on warrant - PB deadline?

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 2/7/12