



**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 7:00PM**  
**Edgartown Town Hall**

**Present:** Chair - Cooper Gilkes, Donald Benefit, Jack Blake, Ralph Case,  
Ryan Smith  
**Shellfish Dept.** Paul Bagnall, Rob Morrison, Warren Gaines  
**Others:** T. Forrest Rogers  
Marni Lipke - Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 7:16PM.

• **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 7, 2012 MINUTES AS AMENDED; DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS - RALPH CASE, RYAN SMITH** due to absence.

• **COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

The Committee discussed:

- the location of the last available aquaculture plot in Katama, and
- the shift of plots after the 2007 barrier beach breach (see below: Actions).

The application having been notarized and completed as required,

• **WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR COOPER GILKES SIGNED T. FORREST ROGERS' AQUACULTURE SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION.**

• **DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORTS**

- An average of 4 scallopers were fishing daily although nice weather increased the number to about eleven. Fishermen were taking longer to gather limits - remaining scallop patches were inconsistent with scattered adults.
- The Deputies re-aligned the Sengekontacket Family Area and posted Crab Creek areas as closed. A fisherman was bull raking in Sengekontacket and getting good quahogs.
- The Deputies also cleaned up litter and marine debris in Trapps Pond although it was already starting to collect again

• **OLD BUSINESS; Bay Scallop Closure Area**

The closed area (with good seed) now extended from the tip of John Oliver's sand bar across to Pachellas and up to the North Hole. Not enough limits were being harvested to warrant an extension of the season this year.

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• OLD BUSINESS: Chappaquiddick Nursery/Roof Shingles Update

There was still no price estimate from the roofer. Mike Hebert at Cottles had offered some red and black shingles at a discount (see below: Actions). The need to fasten them firmly was again emphasized (see 1/17/12 Minutes p. 2).

• The Department helped take out the old and put in the new tank at the Vineyard Haven Nursery.

• NEW BUSINESS: Estuaries Program (See documents on file.)

Biologist Paul Bagnall sent a letter to the Selectmen regarding the U. Mass./Dartmouth Scope of Work Proposal. The Committee discussed;

- rising costs and current availability of matching State funds,
- Pond Committee positions, and
- the importance of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) statistics.

• **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO SEND A LETTER TO THE EDGARTOWN SELECTMEN FORMALLY REQUESTING AN ARTICLE BE PLACED ON THE APRIL 17, 2012 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT TO ENGAGE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS TO COMPLETE THE STUDIES REQUIRED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS ESTUARIES PROGRAM FOR:**

- KATAMA - \$104,000
- OYSTER POND - 75,400
- CAPE POGUE/POCHA POND \$98,000

**RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• NEW BUSINESS: Sengekontacket DMF Plans for 2012

Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) was focusing on rainfall sampling which should be carried out for three consecutive days before and after threshold events. They had agreed to open the Sengekontacket Family Area during the summer season.

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- **NEW BUSINESS: Katama Quahog Relay**

The DMF forms for a Katama Relay Area had arrived and would be filled in and sent back.

- Donald Benefit asked about the progress of restocking herring and the clearing of the Cracktuxet sluiceway.

- **NEW BUSINESS: Financial Update**

About \$22,000 remained for the balance of the Fiscal Year. Minor bills were paid for replacement buoys and ropes and to Boo Basset for hatchery work. The Relay quahogs were projected at about \$12,000.

- It was expected that the Sengekontacket relay by the Big Bridge would be open in about a year.

- The Committee welcomed back Ralph Case and thanked the Deputies for all their work.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- **THE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 7:55PM.**

**Actions To Be Done:**

- Paul – ask Tommy Shields re: Brad Chase about herring stock.
- Paul – survey aquaculture field re: Jeremy's and Tom's plots,
- Paul– submit warrant article petition to Selectmen by deadline.
- Paul – Check with LandBank re: color of Chappy roof tiles.

**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 2/21/12
- Estuaries Program Update 1/30/12