

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
7:00PM Tuesday, March 20, 2012
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair Cooper Gilkes, Donald Benefit Jack Blake,
Ralph Case, Ryan Smith
Staff: Paul Bagnall,
Public:

The meeting was called to order at 7:13PM.

• MINUTES

• **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 6, 2012 MINUTES; DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• OLD BUSINESS: Estuaries Program

The Selectmen and Finance Committee had not included the Massachusetts Estuaries Project (MEP) in their discussions or on the 2012 Special/Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Wastewater Operator Joe Alosso had objected to the further layer of bureaucracy and to MEP recommendations on where to sewer. Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall argued that:

- the information provided by the Reports was invaluable,
 - State matching grants made the project financially advantageous,
 - the estimate would be modified/discounted for any data Edgartown already had on file (e.g. the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) studies),
 - payment could be spread over a number of fiscal years,
 - the voters should be given the right to decide.
- He spoke briefly about preparations for presentation of the article and the Shellfish Dept. Budgets at Town Meetings. It was noted that
- Edgartown administered 65% of the Vineyard's shellfish resources while expending 45% of the expenses; and
 - on a \$28 million Town budget the \$308,000 Shellfish budget was only about 1% and brought in at least \$400,000 in scalloping not counting the oyster aquaculture and 800 family licenses.

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• OLD BUSINESS: Sengekontacket Closure

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) was working towards its own May 1st deadline and was looking to close either side of Haystacks Island in keeping with the sanitary survey results. This would entail marking off closed areas. Last weeks sampling results came in under 2.

• OLD BUSINESS; Chappaquiddick Nursery/Roof Shingles Update

- Roof work was slated to start tomorrow.
- The interior would be painted.
- The air line needed a new compressor and some old wires needed replacing.
- There were two new pumps at the Town Barn.

• OLD BUSINESS

- Just like the pinkletinks as the first sign of spring, Rick Karney was calling for mature quahogs. It was important to get both Chappaquiddick and the Lobster Hatchery into spawning and up and running.
- The dredge crew wanted a channel to the beach in Edgartown Great Pond. Hopefully the Pond would be cut this week as piping plover closure started April 1st and the herring were already running.

• NEW BUSINESS: Financial Update

The Committee had about \$20,000 left.

• NEW BUSINESS; Herring Update (See below: Actions.)

The Committee discussed the impact of herring trawlers, already 2.4 million tons over their limit, knocking the bottom out of the food chain.

• NEW BUSINESS; Cormorant Control (See below: Actions.)

Donald Benefit informally polled the Selectmen and reported them in favor of control. It was again noted that Sarson's Island was in Oak Bluffs. The Committee considered:

- Tribal support,
- destruction of marine wildlife (American eel, kunnors (ocean perch), etc.),

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- Massachusetts Audubon Society positions and the preservation of other birds (terns, etc.).

• **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO PROCEED WITH INCLUDING EDGARTOWN ON THE SAME CORMORANT HARASSMENT AND CULLING PERMIT LIST AS THE WAMPANOAG TRIBE AND THE TOWN OF CHILMARK.**

• OLD BUSINESS; Bay Scallop Closure Area

Both the Selectmen and the fishermen accepted the closing as routine,

• DEPUTIES' & CONSTABLE'S REPORTS

- As the Deputies were away they had reported briefly to Coop Gilkes.

- In the matter of Roy Scheffer's request (see 3/6/12 Minutes p. 1) the Committee discussed previous DMF survey and release of a harbor area to aquaculture; six or eight fishermen had plots there some years ago (see below: Actions).

- Juvenile Oyster Disease (JOD) was plaguing some farmers.

- As DMF might come to the Island to survey the new Katama family area they could include the Harbor as part of the trip.

- The Committee talked about massive West Coast aquaculture (30+ acres per farm) with mechanized seeding and harvesting. The move towards geoducks was also noted.

• Finance Committee - 4:00PM Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at Town Hall.

• Conch Workshop - 10:00AM Friday, March 23, 2012 at Catherine Cornell Theater.

• Edgartown Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays, April 3 and 17, 2012 at Town Hall.

• Edgartown Special & Annual Town Meeting - 7:00PM Tuesday, April 10, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

• **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:05PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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Actions To Be Done:

- Paul - will be away 3/29-4/12/2012
- All - Please attend FinCom Meeting Wednesday, 3/21/12, @ 4PM.
- Paul - talk to Tommy re: old wires in Chappaquiddick Nursery.
- Paul - talk to Dannielle re: ripped out Lagoon herring run wires.
- Paul/Coop - post 4/3/12 meeting by 3/29/12 and put Roy Scheffer on agenda.
- Warren - prep for Town Meeting.
- Harbor Aquaculture Plots
- Paul - ask Jerry Moles re:
 - old Harbor aquaculture plots & time frame requirement for re-survey if any,
 - if necessary DMF re-survey of Harbor plots on same trip as Katama Family Area.
 - Also lobby for shellfish spawning/nursery progress on Lobster Hatchery.
- Ryan - research old Harbor plot maps.
- Jack - research old Harbor plot maps.
- Marni - print 2011 Final Minutes February through April

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 3/20/12