

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 7:00PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair - Cooper Gilkes Donald Benefit, Ralph Case,
Ryan Smith,
Shellfish Dept. Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Doug Benefit, Roy Scheffer,
Marni Lipke - Recorder

The meeting was called to order 7:04PM.

• MINUTES

• **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 20, 2012 MINUTES:
RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY 3 AYES, 0 NAYS,
0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• DEPUTIES/CONSTABLE'S REPORT

- Edgartown Great Pond was opened with two channels Saturday, March 31st and closed within two days having drained but not flushed. Unfortunately this meant diminished herring, and the next opening would have to wait till the Pond filled. It was suggested that next time the dredge cut only one deep channel.
- The engine on the whaler had been repaired and the boat at Sengekontacket would be switched out and repositioned to avoid rocks.
- All oyster bags were finished and delivered to Edgartown Great Pond.

• OLD BUSINESS - Sengekontacket Closure Update

The Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) took a sample round yesterday and indicated those areas that had tested consistently clean could be opened. It was assumed they would put out markers and keep the Department informed.

• PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Benefit asked about opening Edgartown Great Pond to clamming with the same dates and limits as last year (see 7/5/11 Minutes p. 1) two level washbaskets three or five days a week. He suggested that all areas be opened so as not to concentrate fishing. The Committee, however, reminded him of the Sanctuary Program and asked that as previously, Doug take one of the Deputies out to survey the Pond (see below: Actions) for fishable areas.

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- OLD BUSINESS – Chappy Nursery/Roof Shingles Update

- Roofing was finished Saturday, March 31st. Deputy Warraen Gaines went by Saturday in the rain and found no leaks.
- After brush clearing by the Martha's Vineyard LandBank the building showed the need of some exterior painting and maintenance.
- Ladders were delivered and the wires were being checked.
- The Committee discussed previous plans for a greenhouse, algae cultivation and the move from a hatchery to a nursery—particularly in view of rumors that an important Cape supplier was closing/changing hands. The Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) Director Rick Karney was extremely busy with the old Lobster Hatchery project. Wampanoag surplus hatchery equipment had not panned out.

- COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- NEW BUSINESS Aquaculture Site on Middle Flat

Due to the long fallow period DMF would re-survey the plots (see 2/21/12 Minutes p. 1 and 3/20/12 Minutes p. 3).

- OLD BUSINESS – Estuaries Program

- REMEMBER GO TO TOWN MEETING!

- Doug Benefit and Cooper Gilkes reported that the Finance Committee seemed to be positive towards the Mass. Estuaries Program (MEP) warrant articles. Charley Blair and Warren Gaines would speak on Town Meeting floor. Although this article was sponsored by the Shellfish Committee, the entire community would benefit from healthier ponds.
- Other articles included:
 - ° the \$44,000 Committee warrant, see 11/15/11 Minutes p. 1-2 and 12/6/11 Minutes p. 2),
 - ° and the articles for the new Seahorse engine and truck.
- Other successful Shellfish volunteer programs focused on participation in planned labor events. The license application form would be amended to include a volunteer sign up line with email addresses (see below: Actions).
- The Chappaquiddick breach was very deep and endangering a house as it shifted.

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Meetings

- Edgartown Annual Town Meeting - 7:00PM Tuesday, April 10, 2012
- Edg. Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays, April 17 and May 1, 2012 at Town Hall

• ADJOURNMENT

- **DONALD BENEFIT MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:52PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- All - attend Town Meeting
- Paul/Warren/Rob - moor Senge boat further out,
- Rob/Doug B. - survey Edg. Great Pond (and Cracktuxet) re: clamming
- Paul/Warren/Rob- painting/maintenance on Chappaquiddick Nursery
- Ryan/Jack - bring in any documentation on Middle Ground plots
- Warren/Coop - check warrant for FinCom recommendations
- Coop - ask Pam to amend license applications re: volunteers sign up w/ email.
- and/or hand stamp those already printed;
- call Ron re: contact list status.

4/17/12 Agenda

- Edg. Great Pond Clamming Season Report and Vote

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 4/3/12