

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, September 4, 2012, 7:00PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Chair - Jack Blake, Donald Benefit, Ralph Case, Cooper Gilkes,
Ryan Smith
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: Jacob Basset, Jason Bennett, Scott Castro, Francis Fisher III,
Ray Gailey, Ashton Hannah, Jeremy Scheffer, Roy Scheffer,
Morgan Taylor, Nic Turner
Marni Lipke - Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- **WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR JACK BLAKE SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR JACOB BASSETT.**
- **WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CHAIR JACK BLAKE SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR MORGAN TAYLOR.** The signed applications and fees should be submitted to Town Hall within 48 hours.
- After the Minutes were passed, Ray Gailey submitted a new application in order to move his aquaculture plot from Shear Pen to the West side of the channel around Dyke Bridge in Pocha Pond apparently because of an algae bloom in Shear Pen. There was a discussion on:
 - = procedure to open a new area to aquaculture including a public hearing by the Board of Selectmen and a bio-survey by the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF);
 - whether there was any scallop fishing at the proposed location,
 - the previous similar request by Mr. Roosevelt (see 9/6/11 Minutes p. 1).
- The Committee would take the matter under advisement (see below: Actions).

MINUTES

- **RALPH CASE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 15, 2012 AND AUGUST 7, 2012 MINUTES: COOPER GILKES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.** (See below: Actions.)

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OLD BUSINESS

- The signature authorization letter would be ready for the next meeting.
- The temperature indicator had been turned in and replaced by the DMF.

NEW BUSINESS

Re-Approval of Francis Fisher's Aquaculture License

Francis 'Sandy' Fisher maintained the Selectmen were mistaken about his license not being in order and showed his State permit, which could not be obtained without a local permit. He thought the cages had been mostly moved into the correct plot and the plot marked with buoys and that the out of boundary equipment would not happen again. He also had given the Town proof of insurance through Tashmoo Insurance Agency. The Committee asked that all lease/license agreements be in his name and not his father (Francis Fisher II) or grandfather Francis Fisher. Sandy Fisher III took full responsibility for the license.

• **JACK BLAKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE NEW AQUACULTURE LICENSE/LEASE FOR FRANCIS 'SANDY' FISHER III, DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS** (see below: Actions).

DEPUTIES/CONSTABLES' REPORT

- The Deputies made five trips and put about 20 totes of oysters from Sandy Fisher into Calebs and Sengekontacket Ponds around the family area, where they would be monitored for survival rates.
- They also laid two beds of pea stone for quahogs and thinned down the seed rafts.
- The Vineyard Haven Hatchery sent the last scallop set.
- The Chappaquiddick Nursery was all painted in one color, but was in need of further structural repair.
- It was noted that no one had found any quantity of scallop seed anywhere so that unless there was a late set, the following year (2013-14) would have a sparse harvest.

NEW BUSINESS

Aquaculture Regulations

- There was a general discussion on how to draft upweller locations into the Aquaculture Regulations including;
 - not limiting the number of upwellers,
 - accommodating fishermen who just sold seed,
 - locations as historically approved by the Board of Selectmen and/or Harbormaster,
 - State regulations as noted on the DMF permit application forms,
 - dock locations and locations during the closure or opening of the Harbor,
 - the newly appointed Harbor Committee.

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- The amendment to the Aquaculture Regulations would read:
 - all cages, equipment or bags shall be located within the marked farm boundaries or on the raft(s), except upwellers. Upweller locations shall be subject on a case-by-case basis to approval by the Harbormaster and/or Board of Selectmen.
- Paul Bagnall reported that the leaseholders did a good job of marking their plot with buoys but that global positioning showed some to be slightly off the mark (see below: Actions). The DMF had requested one hearing for all leaseholders.
- The Shellfish Committee reminded all leaseholders to have their reports in to the Board of Selectmen by January 1st of each year.
- The Chair thanked all leaseholders and fishermen who donated seed. Any extras might do well in Sengekontacket Pond.
- The Deputies noted that Google Earth pictures from last winter showed cages in the Edgartown Harbor. Unfortunately State regulations required that all culling must be done within the plot or at the leaseholder's home.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was \$41,000 remaining of the \$44,000 FY13 Shellfish funds.
 - Sengekontacket Closure Update
- Sengekontacket was still under rainfall closure however DMF was getting better at testing in a timely fashion.
- Eel Pond had been opened on schedule September 1st.
- Next meeting's Scallop Season Public Hearing had been posted and advertised in the press.

Meetings

- Edg. Shellfish – 7:00PM Tuesdays, September 8, & October 2, 2012 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

- **RALPH CASE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:06PM; MOTION SECONDED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul/Jack – remind aquaculture lease holders re:
 - tighten up marker buoys to 150 ft. by 300 ft.
 - get reports into Selectmen by 1/1/13.
 - check with Pam re: Fisher lease/license and documentation in Sandy Fisher III name.

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Actions To Be Done (cont.)

- Paul – get Treasurer’s letter of signature authorization.
- Paul – ask Steve to move mooring from Scott Castro’s plot.
- Jack – investigate proposed aquaculture plot at Dyke Bridge with Donald B.
- Paul/Marni – email agendas to Shellfish Committee.

September Agendas

- Public Hearing on Scallop Season
- Minutes: 9/4/12
- Vote on the Aquaculture Regulation Amendment

Unfinished Projects / Ongoing Actions

- Gate/fencing of Fishermen’s Depot
- Photographs for Shellfish Dept. Office
- Paul – make available written deputy reports/hours on a bi-weekly basis.
- Warren/Rob – Report log at each Committee Meeting
- Public Hearing when /if there is an Edg. Great Pond oyster season.

Documents on file:

- Agenda 9/4/12
- Sign In Sheet 9/4/12
- Edgartown Application for a Commercial Shellfish Permit Jacob Bassett
- Edgartown Application for a Commercial Shellfish Permit Morgan Taylor
- Edgartown Application for a Aquaculture Lease/License Ray Gailey