

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, October 16, 2012, 7:00PM
Edgartown Town Hall

Present: Acting Chair - Ryan Smith, Donald Benefit, Ralph Case,
Cooper Gilkes,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,
Others: John Black, Michael Briggs, Ronald Chambers, Manuel Sylvia,
Marni Lipke - Recorder

The meeting was called to order at 7:18PM.

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF JOHN BLACK'S ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE AS LONG AS HE PAID BOTH THIS YEAR AND LAST YEAR'S LICENSING FEE (\$700 TOTAL).
- WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE ACTING CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR MICHAEL BRIGGS.
- WITH THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE ACTING CHAIR RYAN SMITH SIGNED THE COMMERCIAL ALL SPECIES SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR RONALD CHAMBERS.

The Committee reviewed opening dates for Manuel Sylvia to test his new winch.

DEPUTIES/CONSTABLES' REPORT

- The Deputies completed overwintering the quahogs in twenty-two 4ft. x 4ft. gravel boxes with 5,000 seed each.
- Deputies enforced the Family Scallop Season, reporting good participation and limits on weekends but some falling off during the week due to wind. Both the Committee and staff received grateful feedback for moving scallops to Sengekontacket / Anthiers Pond (see 10/2/12 Minutes p. 2).
- Ray Gailey was moving his cages back to Shear Pen. The Rusty Tide had abated.
- Deputies raised the issue of past practice in allowing some commercial fishers to take a family limit for a senior so long as the senior came down to the Dock to pick it up. If the senior was not there, the extra basket was taken by the Deputies to hold or return to the waters. The Committee discussed: good Samaritan issues, limits, and enforcement,

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- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO ALLOW A FISHERMAN TO FISH A FAMILY TAKE FOR A TOWN ELDER, LIMITED TO TWO PER SEASON, PROVIDED THE SENIOR CAME DOWN TO THE DOCK TO RECEIVE THE TAKE AND AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CONSTABLE AND DEPUTIES. - The Committee proposed to add scallops to the Christmas stocking delivery to seniors (see below: Actions).

- The Ponds Committee asked about closing any Edgartown Great Pond cut that lasted more than 12 days.

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE THAT CLOSING EDGARTOWN GREAT POND CUTS WAS NOT PRACTICAL.

OLD BUSINESS

Chappaquiddick Nursery Update

The Nursery was emptied after Labor Day and the water turned off. The Committee reviewed plans to spawn shellfish and release them into the Pond by the Dike. If given enough advance notice staff could be trained by Rick Karney. Next year would be a good year to start spawning due to projections for a low number of adult wild scallops. (See also below: Financial Update.)

- The Committee discussed pole and tong limits on Edgartown Great Pond to maintain the base population.

Estuaries Program

- Everyone was urged to come to the Edgartown Selectmen meeting next Monday to advocate for Sengekontacket and Trapps Pond recommendations.

- Data had been gathered for Pocha, Pogue, Katama & Oyster Ponds.

- Oyster Pond was taking longer to recover from dermo and the water was darker without oysters to filter it.

Sengekontacket Closure Update

Areas were still under rainfall restrictions until October 31st.

Financial Update

- \$38,000 remained in the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) Budget and staff did not see much need for seed moving this year.

- About \$6,000 was spent on Chappaquiddick Nursery maintenance and equipment. Shellfish Warden Paul Bagnall authorized new front steps.

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NEW BUSINESS

Sengekontacket Oyster Program (See documents on file.)

Oak Bluffs Shellfish Constable Dave Grunden had applied for Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funds to start the Oak Bluffs side but the Edgartown CPC application deadline was in September, so the Committee might put funding for the Edgartown side in an additional warrant article.

- Friends of Sengekontacket had signaled both financial and volunteer support.
- Ken Johnson expressed interest in the project and two gravel pens were placed at his house next to the Rod & Gun Club.

Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) Business Plan

In consultation with the Nature Conservancy the MVSG would draft a business plan to regularize and stabilize its structure pending some significant retirements. The plan would include such things as revenue sources, bylaws, personnel policy, etc.

- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE THAT THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD SHELLFISH GROUP REACH OUT TO OTHER REGIONAL MUNICIPALITIES FOR MEMBERSHIP AND FEES.

- The Aquaculture Research Corporation which supplied seed to many Cape Cod and South Shore towns was up for sale. Any expansion of the MVSG programs such as an increase in the Lobster Hatchery, would require more staff.

• MINUTES

• RALPH CASE MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2, 2012 MINUTES: DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

Meetings

- Edg. Board of Selectmen - 4:00PM Monday, October 22, 2012 at Town Hall
- Edg. Shellfish - 7:00PM Tuesdays, November 6 & 20, 2012 at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

• RALPH CASE MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:06PM; DONALD BENEFIT SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Actions To Be Done :

- Jack/Donald/Paul - attend Joint Committee presentation to Selectmen: 4PM 10/22/12.
- Paul - get number of senior stockings for Xmas scallop donation.

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Documents on file:

- Agenda 10/16/12
- Sign In Sheet 10/16/12
- Shellfish Licenses - Briggs, Chambers,
- 2 Year Trial Program for Edgartown & Oak Bluffs to each produce in Sengekontacket Pond 500,000 2" Oyster Seed To Be Planted in the Pond.