

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 4:30PM
by Zoom Cloud Conference Due to the Covid-19 Crisis

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Les Baynes, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith,
Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Jason Mallory, Rob Morrison,
Others: Recorder – Marni Lipke,

The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.

(Recorder's Note: discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

MINUTES

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 17, 2020 MINUTES AS AMENDED: LES BAYNES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 4 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: RYAN SMITH—AYE, CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, LES BAYNES—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE.**

CONSTABLES & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- The scallop season was going better than anyone expected. Some of the fleet withdrew when hunting season opened. Today there were 14 good limits picked up within 3 hours. The price was \$20/lb. cutting at 10lb. per bushel.
- Rob Morrison and Jason Mallory were sinking cages and pulling floats to wrap up the Major's Cove Oyster farm for the winter.
- Staff would sample Edgartown Great Pond with the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC), tomorrow.
- Red's Best closed, the last wholesale fish seller on the Vineyard, so now everyone had to be prepared to ship off-Island.
- The Shellfish Initiative hosted by the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) could be viewed on their website. The State was looking at updating some aquaculture guidelines.

OLD BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Articles for Town Meeting (See documents on file.)

In a meeting with the Town Manager, Selectmen and Finance Committee all Town Departments were asked to level fund next year's finances. Consequently Shellfish Constable Paul Bagnall put forward a simple budget (having returned about \$2,000 in FY20 residuals to the Town) the usual 2 articles on propagation and Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) dues. However, he wanted to support the repair of the MVSG Hughes Hatchery/Nursery in Oak Bluffs, which supplied seed to many Island waters including Chappaquiddick). The other 5 Towns used Community Preservation Act/Committee (CPA/CPC) funds, but the Edgartown CPC refused (see below: Actions).

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- **LES BAYNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE THREE SHELLFISH ARTICLES FOR TOWN MEETING AS PRESENTED:**
 - \$44,000 SHELLFISH DEPARTMENT PROPAGATION PROGRAMS,
 - \$38,000 MARTHA'S VINEYARD SHELLFISH GROUP DUES,
 - \$51,476 HUGHES HATCHERY SALT WATER INTAKE LINE REPLACEMENT;
- RYAN SMITH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 4 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, LES BAYNES—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE.**

NEW BUSINESS

Oyster Season 2020-2021

- This was on the agenda for future consideration. At this point:
 - no fishermen were asking for it—in view of the good scallop season;
 - Red's Best closing added additional stress to the process;
 - aquaculture farmers were struggling with severely depressed oyster market rates due to restaurant pandemic closures.
- Aquaculture farmers (and others in commercial fishing) applied for and received CARES Act relief, which was a great financial help.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesdays, December 15, 2020 & January 5, 2021 by Zoom
- Dredge - 4:00PM, Thursdays, by Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

- **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:46PM; LES BAYNES SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE, LES BAYNES—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Paul/Christian/Les - research make up of CPC re: possible representation.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 12/1/20
- Bagnall email re: Shell Comm @ 4:30 (2 p.) 12/1/20