

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, December 15, 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 4:31PM.

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

MINUTES

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 1, 2020 MINUTES AS AMENDED: LES BAYNES SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 4 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE, LES BAYNES—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE.**

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- A couple commercial fishermen asked to harvest a few oysters to see what the market was like so staff approved a small taking in addition to the family limit of a ½ washbasket per week.
 - Major's Cove Oyster Farm was ready for winter weather, all buoys off and all floats out.
 - Otherwise the crew was working on maintenance, boats, etc.
 - The scallop season was holding up well. Depending on the weather about 10-14 widely spaced boats were out, mostly veteran fishermen. Those starting early were back by 12:00N. Seed counts were better than last year. The season was expected to last until the holidays at least, with market price at \$22.
 - Regulation stated the Shellfish Constable or Deputies could determine shellfishing if the temperature was 30°F by 10:00AM. The Department proposed experimenting with adding the Town temperature station at the Chappaquiddick ferry to the current official Yacht Club thermometer which seemed to be a colder location than others. The information was available on the internet and this would streamline the process, allowing for earlier boat starts.
 - **IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO ALLOW USE OF SEVERAL TOWN TEMPERATURE STATIONS AS DETERMINED BY THE SHELLFISH CONSTABLE AND STAFF.**
 - The three Shellfish articles were accepted by the Town:
 - \$44,000 Shellfish Committee propagation;
 - \$38,000 Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) dues;
 - \$50,000 Hughes Hatchery repairs.
- The Town Accountant suggested funding the articles by turning over the \$183,500 residual in the Massachusetts Estuary Program (MEP) account.
- There was a link to the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative on the Division of Marine Fisheries

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(DMF) website mostly about how to better serve local government and promote mutual interaction. Deliverables were expected in spring 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Report Due January 3, 2021 (See below: Actions.)

- The restoration of Edgartown Great Pond was celebrated in a Vineyard Gazette article (see documents on file) and Les Baynes suggested it be presented as a success story report at the Annual Town Meeting. The investment in expensive and extensive sewerage, the Edgartown Great Pond Association, regular cuts, dredging and other conservation work paid off in town fishing income, beauty and environmental health.

OLD BUSINESS

Oyster Season

- **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO OPEN THE SENGEKONTACKET POND OYSTER SEASON ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020,**
- AT TEN (10) ONE HUNDRED (100) COUNT OYSTER BAGS PER DAY,
- FIVE (5) DAYS PER WEEK, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY,
- AND ALL OTHER RULES AND REGULATION APPLY;
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.

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish - 4:30PM, Tuesdays, January 5 & 19, 2021 by Zoom
- Dredge - 4:00PM, Thursdays, by Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

- **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:54PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE, LES BAYNES—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Rob/Paul/Christian/Ryan - draft Annual Town Report by 1/3/21.
- Paul/Les - contact Moderator re: Edg. Great Pond Report at ATM.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 12/15/20
- Vineyard Gazette article: Two Foundations Launch Intensive Study of Chilmark Pond (4 p.)

12/7/20