

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 4:30PM
by Zoom Cloud Conference Due to the Covid-19 Crisis

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton*, David Faber, Madeline Fisher*, Ryan Smith,
Nick Turner*,
Shellfish Dept. Rob Morrison, Warren Gaines, Jason Mallory,
Others: Paul Bagnall, Stephanie Fauteaux, Gabriel Grazing, Recorder – Marni Lipke,
Dredge Com./Dept.– Ed Handy, Dudley Levick, Juliet Mulinare, Ryan Smith,
Edgartown Great Pond Foundation: Michael Shalett, Emily Reddington
* Shellfish Committee members who arrived late or left early.

The meeting was called to order at 4:32PM.

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

MINUTES

• RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 18, 2022 MINUTES: DAVE FABER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE, DAVE FABER—AYE.

NEW CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

Scallop Season

• There were still a couple fishermen getting scallop limits both before and after the blizzard with good market prices. There was a decent amount of seed, which was not showing up in the limits.

Oyster Season

• 4-6 people were oystering, although Sengekontacket Pond was frozen, and the weather was difficult. The Fisherman's Trust would buy oysters for the market.

• Staff was working on bins for the upweller.
• Shellfish Constable Rob Morrison and retired Constable Paul Bagnall presented the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget and 5 articles to the Finance Committee. The discussion went smoothly with no pushback.

Online Shellfish Licenses

Rob Morrison was working with Information Technology (IT) Manager Adam Darack, on online recreational family shellfish licensing starting by April 2022—with the hopes of online commercial licensing in the future. This had a number of advantages:

- for residents, such as instantaneous purchase from any location including the beach;
- for Town Hall as already linked to the street registry, veteran status, age and perpetual record;
- for staff in a constantly updated list accessible on iPads or cell phones.

Hard copy applications would still be available for those who preferred.

• Rob Morrison would present the draft license language to the Committee as soon as it became available and was open to advice and direction. He proposed recreational license language for a husband, wife, minor children, and 2 guests and “Guests must be accompanied by the license-holder” (since the license holder would know the regulations and locations).

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- He was also working on “Shellfishing Permit Required” signage for Norton Point with a QRL for the online application site.
- Currently there were about 900 recreational licenses and 100 commercial licenses—of which about 50 were active almost all of them over 60 years old (seniors often chose commercial licenses in order to be able to exceed the recreational bushel limit).

OLD BUSINESS

Deputy’s Replacement (See 1/18/22 Minutes p.1)

In consultation with Town Administrator James Hagerty Rob Morrison decided to wait a few months to see how the deputy job might be re-structured under a new Constable. The quieter winter season allowed some leeway around being short-handed. Committee advice was welcome.

NEW BUSINESS

Dredge Committee Katama (See documents on file, & below: Meetings/Events, & Actions.)

Working with Tara Marden of the Woods Hole Group (WHG) the Dredge Committee received a \$350,000 grant (~ \$30,000/yr. for 10 years) to study opportunities, permit and dredge Katama Bay for ecological restoration. The goal was a wide channel design to recreate bottom topography that used to work, hopefully restore the eelgrass and then the little necks. Satellite photos showed the silting and changes after the Norton Point breach and Hurricane Bob.

- The grant was not limited by fiscal years but WHG reported permit regulatory delays of about a year so the Dredge Committee was eager to submit a straightforward application as soon as possible. It was hoped the funds would cover the entire project budget.
- To facilitate regulatory approval the following parameters were advised:
 - a narrow specific area;
 - channels that could be widened by not deepened—this would shorten the dredge length (current draft showed 3 miles of 120 ft. wide channels);
 - no dredging within 1,500 ft. of South (barrier) Beach;
- The Shellfish and Dredge Committee made a number of suggestions:
 - a 5th channel on the east side with a connection to a southern channel to enhance the water flow—a good proposal but possibly difficult to permit re: South Beach proximity;
 - a north to south navigation channel and aquaculture farm perimeter, not only for aquaculturists but so recreational boats didn’t end up in the aquaculture flats;
 - pushback close to the oyster flats to compensate for the northern drift;
 - wider aerial engineering surveys by the Sea Grant Economic Council for as much data as possible.
- There was a Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group meeting at the same time as the Thursday Dredge Committee meeting however Rob Morrison and Ryan Smith would work on a Shellfish Committee consensus presentation.

Dredge Committee Edgartown Great Pond

- The Edgartown Great Pond Foundation had privately purchased and operated a small dredge for about 10 years, to reduce and channel the delta to improve flushing during cuts. This dredge was now beyond repair and the Foundation was relying on the Town dredge.

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- The Town dredge had completed its work for the season without dredging the Great Pond delta and the Town dredge was out of the water awaiting repairs.
- Foundation and Committee members noted the vast improvement in the Pond with every cove growing either eelgrass or widgeon grass, impressive bio-diversity and good water quality. Wastewater treatment plant and septic effluents had quantifiable harmful impacts that openings reduced by flushing and increased salinity. The Foundation presented Bill Wilcox's scientific evidence showing that annual dredging through the flood tidal delta was a vital component of Pond health, reducing flow friction and allowing better flushing. The Foundation suggested that missing an annual dredge would put 20 years of progress at risk.
 - Dredge Committee Chair Ed Handy stated that there was no precedent for annual Great Pond dredging but rather once every 2 to 3 years.
 - Dudley Levick repeated his former opinion that it was not the duration of the cut but the number of cuts that should be questioned, referring to the fresh water reservoir and the 50% exchange rate in 5 day and 90% rate in 9 days (see Minutes: 3/4/14 p.2, & 3/18/14 p.2-3, & 3/6/18 p.1-2, & 3/20/18 p.2-3, & 4/3/18 p.2). There was some debate on length and effectiveness of openings.
 - As this was a less urgent matter, Foundation suggested the conversation be postponed until the Shellfish Committee could hear expert scientific opinions from at least 2 sources.

SHELLFISH PERMITS AND AQUACULTURE LICENSES

The Committee welcomed Stephanie Fauteaux. Rob Morrison attested she was a resident of Edgartown and the application had been completed and notarized. The application would be reviewed by Select Board Administrative Assistant Kristi Rose.

- **RYAN SMITH MOVED THAT THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE AUTHORIZE CHAIR CHRISTIAN THORNTON OR SHELLFISH CONSTABLE ROB MORRISON TO SIGN THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR STEPHANIE FAUTEAUX ON BEHALF OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE; MADELINE FISHER AND DAVE FABER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MADELINE FISHER—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE, DAVE FABER—AYE.**

Meetings/Events

- Edg. Shellfish – 4:30PM, Tuesdays, February 15, & March 1 & 15, 2022 by Zoom
- Dredge – 4:00PM, Thursdays, by Zoom
- Edg. Master Plan Harbor/Waterways – 11:00AM, Friday, February 18, 2022 Library & Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

- **RYAN SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:35PM; DAVE FABER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: DAVE FABER—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE.**

continued >

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Documents on File:

- Agenda 2/1/22
- Thorton/Morrison email re: Shell. Comm. Today 4:30PM (3 p.) 2/1/22

Actions To Be Done:

- Rob/Ryan – prepare Shellfish guidance for Katama dredge project and attend Dredge meeting.
- All – consider attending Dredge Committee and Edg. Master Plan/Waterways meetings.
- Dudley Levick – resend previous letter on Edg. Great Pond openings.
- 2/15/22 Agenda – Confirmation of Dredge Guidance, Minutes Vote, Shellfish Permit Vote,

Katama Aquaculture Lot Wait List

1. Micah Agnoli	6/21/17	5. Adam Thibodeau	11/7/17
2. Adam Castro	9/5/17	6. Lila Fischer	1/16/18
3. Evan & Andrea Donnelly	9/19/17	7. David “Tubby” Medeiros	2/19/19
4. Clinton Fisher	9/19/17	8. Liam Cosgrove	9/17/19

Middle Flats lots votes:

- 11/5/13 1 two-acre Middle Flats to Jeremy Scheffer
- transferred to Noah.
- 2/18/14 1 two-acre Middle Flats to Ryan Smith & 1 two-acre Middle Flats to Joe Smith
- Joe Smith transferred to Julia Smith
- 2/2/16 1 two-acre Middle Flats to Nick Turner & 1 two-acre Middle Flats to Dan Donnelly
- 8/21/18 1 two-acre Middle Flats to Scott Castro
- 10/20/20 Liam Crosgroves & Sandy Fisher motion to sign Middle Flats applications pending Shellfish Constable and Shellfish Committee Chair approval.
- Liam Crosgroves confirmed.

Preliminary notes for Katama Bay dredge suggestions:

Dudley Levick:

- At 120 ft. wide there are 3 miles of channel
- Wider channels are possible but would reduce the mileage,
- Advised – need a specific area to expedite permitting,
- Advised to not deepen channels,
- Advised avoiding being within 1,500 ft. of South (barrier) Beach re: permitting parameters.
- Requested more detail

Nick Turner/Ryan Smith:

- suggest 5th drain to the east,
- possible connection with a southern channel to connect water flow,
(these 2 might be difficult to permit re: 1,500 ft. limit)
- a navigational channel north to south and perimeter inside farms, not only for aquaculturists but also so recreational boats don't end up in the aquaculture flats.

Ed Handy:

- pushback closer to oyster flats to retard northern drift.
(Ed's review: channels through flats, navigation to Landing, anything else, now is the time to say)