

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 4:30PM**  
**by Zoom Cloud Conference Due to the Covid-19 Crisis**

Present: Acting Chair – Ryan Smith, David Faber, Madeline Fisher,  
Shellfish Dept. Rob Morrison, Warren Gaines, Jason Mallory,  
Others: Susan Gomez, Lionell Spiro, Recorder – Marni Lipke,  
TTOR - Russell Hopping  
Dredge Com./Dept.– Rick Hamilton, Ed Handy, Dudley Levick,  
Juliet Mulinare, Ed Vincent, 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. Chair Christian Thornton was traveling and sent his regards. (*Recorder's Note: discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

• IN VIEW OF A FEBRUARY 1, 2022 MEETING NOTICE TYPO, IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO CONFIRM ALL DISCUSSIONS, SHELLFISH PERMIT VOTES AND GUIDANCE FOR DREDGE PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS.

NEW CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

Scallop Season

About 13 commercial boats were doing well.

Oyster Season

3-4 commercial boats were getting limits, with additional recreational shellfishing. Staff was considering extending the oyster season to April.

NEW BUSINESS

Dredge Committee Katama (See documents on file, & 2/1/22 Minutes p.2 & below: Actions.)

After talking to a number of experienced and elder water people Shellfish Constable Rob Morrison drafted a proposed dredge plan, with tapering banks for the channels from 4 to 6 ft. in the center. There was general commendation for the excellent plan that addressed all the issues and would facilitate the Woods Hole Group (WHG) permit application. Between the application, permitting backlog, engineering, etc. the timeframe was estimated at 5-10 years.

Dredge Committee Edgartown Great Pond (See documents on file, & 2/1/22 Minutes p.2-3.)

- Rob Morrison thanked Dudley Levick for resending his letter which contained some good digestible conversation.
- Dudley Levick corresponded with Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) former Director Bill Wilcox (email available on request) about his views supporting a schedule of 4 short pond openings, emphasizing his opinions on bio-diversity, freshwater reserves, seepage/evaporation, management for shellfish/financial gain versus Pond health.
- As the dredge was out of the water awaiting repairs, the Great Pond delta would probably not be dredged this year.

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- Rob Morrison reviewed Pond management plans dating back to 1934. As an important first step to getting a larger picture of the Pond status and needs, he would tour the Great Pond and its delta with Dredge representatives. He would then consider and take under advisement all the issues including Mr. Levick's along with other expert opinions before planning Great Pond openings.
- The Great Pond Foundation representatives thanked him for looking at and being receptive to the data and appreciated his tour of the Pond.
- Madeline Fisher was on the Town Master Plan Committee and urged Committee members to attend both the Harbor/Waterways and the Business/Economic Development workshops (see below: Meetings/Events); website: [www.EngageEdgartown.com](http://www.EngageEdgartown.com)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lionell Spiro ordered oysters from the Martha's Vineyard Fishermen's Wholesale Trust, and stated the wild Edgartown oysters were some of the best he'd ever tasted. He suggested and volunteered to facilitate publicity on Martha's Vineyard oysters like the famous Nantucket oysters on city restaurant menus. (Nantucket Bay oysters might be a matter of branding.) The Committee and staff thanked Mr. Spiro for his compliments and offer.

- There was an objection to the term "wild" oysters since these were Town oysters from the Major's Cove aquaculture farm distributed among the ponds.

MINUTES

• **DAVE FABER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 1 2022 MINUTES AS WRITTEN: MADELINE FISHER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 3 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: RYAN SMITH—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE, DAVE FABER—AYE.**

At the beginning of the meeting:

• IN VIEW OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2022 MEETING NOTICE TYPO, THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE CONFIRMED THE APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 18, 2022 MINUTES.

Meetings/Events

• **Edg. Shellfish – 4:30PM, Tuesdays, March 1 & 15, 2022 by Zoom**

• Dredge – 4:00PM, Thursdays, by Zoom

• Edg. Master Plan Workshops – Edgartown Library & Zoom

- Business/Economic Development – 5:30PM, Thursday, February 17, 2022

- Harbor/Waterways – 11:00AM, Friday, February 18, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

• **DAVE FABER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:05PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: RYAN SMITH—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE, DAVE FABER—AYE.**

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**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 2/15/22
- Morrison cover email & responses re: Katama Bay Proposed Dredging Chart and Key (3 p.) 2/14/22
- Morrison/Levick cover emails re: Great Pond (3 p.) 2/8/22

**Actions To Be Done:**

- Rob – Draft & send permit recommendation letter to Dredge Committee.
- All – consider attending Dredge Committee and Edg. Master Plan/Waterways meetings.
- 3/1/22 Agenda – Oyster Season Extension,

**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 Cosgroves & Sandy Fisher motion to sign Middle Flats applications pending Shellfish Constable and Shellfish Committee Chair approval.  
- Liam Cosgroves confirmed.