

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, April 5, 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, Jason Mallory, Warren Gaines,
Others: Abigail Rosen – MV Times, Recorder – Marni Lipke,
* Shellfish Committee members who arrived late or left early.

The meeting was called to order at 4:36PM. (*Recorder's Note: discussion has been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

MINUTES

• RYAN SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 15, 2022 MINUTES: CHRISTIAN THORNTON SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 5 AYE, 0 NAYS, ABSTENTIONS AS ABSENT: RYAN SMITH—AYE, DAVE FABER—AYE., MADELINE FISHER—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE, CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE.

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

The Major's Cove Oyster Farm did well this winter with no upset cages. Staff set it up and put out all the buoys—92 cages of oyster seed and 32 cages of scallops.

Scallop Season

The Cape Pogue season ended Thursday with a few getting the 3 washbasket limit. A couple persistent fishermen were still at work outside Cape Pogue Off the Beach Club and near the Big Bridge.

- The season harvest was about 2,800 to 3,000 washbaskets of excellent quality, mostly from Cape Pogue, for a well priced market—about \$500,000 total at wholesale prices.

Oyster Season (See 3/1/22 Minutes p.1.)

The Select Board approved the May 1st oyster season extension in Edgartown Great and Sengekontacket Ponds but so far there was not much fishing, although it might improve with spring weather and the Edg. Great Pond cut that increased salinity.

NEW BUSINESS

Deputy Hours Update (See Minutes: 1/18/22 p.1, & 2/1/22 p.2.)

• Shellfish Constable Rob Morrison recommended moving Jason Mallory up to full time (40 hrs. per wk.) and advertising for the vacant slot in time to hire at the end of April. No new positions were being created. He commended Mr. Mallory's hard work and responsibility. The Committee welcomed Jason to his new position and thanked him for his excellent service.

Sea Grant Oyster Buyback Program (See Minutes: 10/19/21 p.1-2.)

• The Sea Grant funded new upweller was finished, thanks again to Jason Mallory's hard work. It would be placed in Katama Bay to experiment with scallop and quahog seed.

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
April 5, 2022

2

- The grant also covered Covid-pandemic relief oyster buyback for aquaculturists, of stock that was too big or over-stocked for market. Staff would plant the oysters in family/recreation areas for easy access in Katama Bay and Caleb's Pond. Rob Morrison would send an email blast to all oyster farmers and asked Committee members to spread the word. The limited funds would be paid by the tote, on a first come/first serve basis.

Town Meeting Warrant Articles (See 10/19/21 Minutes p.3 & below: Actions.)

- The Department submitted the standard propagation, operating cost and Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) articles.
- The \$22,000 article to clear invasive phragmites and restore Mattakesett Creek as a herring run (see Minutes: 11/19/19 p.2, & 5/5/20 p.1, & 10/19/21 p.3) would be added to residuals from previous articles. Former attempts at the project in consultation with Woods Hole, were suspended by the need to do all clearing by hand or to apply for a special permit for machinery.
- Nick Turner's term expired at the end of April, and he had agreed to continue on the Committee.
- Staff requested and the Committee agreed to cancel the April 19th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

After 15 years as Committee recorder, Marni Lipke announced she was retiring. The Committee thanked and commended her participation as a big part of Committee operations. Chair Christian Thornton offered to host a celebratory dinner for retirees: Paul Bagnall, Les Baynes and Marni Lipke—everyone expressed their gratitude for his generosity.

Meetings/Events

- Annual/Special Town Meeting – 7:00PM, Tuesday, April 12, 2022
- **Edg. Shellfish – 4:30PM, Tuesdays, May 3 & 17, 2022 - TBD**
- Dredge – 4:00PM, Thursdays, by Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

• DAVID FABER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:53PM; MADELINE FISHER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE, DAVE FABER—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE.

Documents on File:

- Agenda 4/5/22

Actions To Be Done:

- Rob – check with Town on procurement laws parameters (3 quotes vs, RFPs) re: Mattakesett.

continued

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee
April 5, 2022**

3

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.