

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee**  
**Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 4:30PM**  
**by Zoom Cloud Conference**

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, Madeline Fisher, Ryan Smith, Nick Turner,  
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Rob Morrison,  
Others: Keith Lewis,  
Edg. Great Pond Foundation: Michael Shalett, Emily Reddington

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

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

MINUTES

**• CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 19, 2021 MINUTES: NICK TURNER SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTION: MADELINE FISHER—AYE, CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE.**

COMMERCIAL, FAMILY, AQUACULTURE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

The application was complete, notarized and included proof of residency. As Mr. Lewis was over 60 yrs. Old, the license was free (see below: Actions).

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE EDGARTOWN SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE CHAIR CHRISTIAN THORNTON OR SHELLFISH CONSTABLE PAUL BAGNALL TO SIGN THE COMMERCIAL SHELLFISHING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR KEITH LEWIS ON BEHALF OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE.

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Staff was getting Major's Cove Oyster Farm ready for winter, air drying and repositioning up-ended or flipped cages affected by the recent storm.
- Now that crabs and other predators were calming down, seed and adult scallops were being planted in Sengekontacket Pond with hopes they'll survive the winter. Cape Pogue was showing a lot of seed and so did not need any propagated harvest.
- The Department was awarded State grants, one for material and collaboration with growers (Jack Blake) to build another upweller; and \$5,000 to buy aquaculture oysters for the family area. The project should start in March for final payment in June 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

Scallop Season

Current fishing peeked out at about 29-30 full limits coming in at 9:00-9:30AM after 2-4 hrs.

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Prices were excellent at \$25-27 per lb. Hopefully, the season (unexpectedly strong for Edgartown) would continue some weeks. The fleet was mostly regulars—not many young people.

NEW BUSINESS

A few weeks ago an aquaculture oyster float blew off its mooring and onto a home-owner's dock. The home-owner notified staff who notified the aquaculture farmer. However, staff was forced to remove the float themselves when the farmer had still not retrieved it 4-5 days later. As this was not the first time, Rob Morrison suggested reviewing and amending the Aquaculture Regulations, (drafted when the industry was still young) to make equipment retrieval a priority. The current 7 days left too much latitude for damage by floats and heavy equipment. Nick Turner agreed it was important for all aquaculturists to maintain good community relations.

- All aquaculture farmers were required to present proof of insurance each year when they renewed their license/lease.
- The matter would be discussed at the next meeting (see below: Actions).

Town Meeting Articles

Shellfish Biologist and Constable Paul Bagnall submitted 5 articles:

- Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) dues—up \$1,000 to \$39,000;
- standard Shellfish Committee propagation at \$44,000;
- Carolina skiff outboard motor;
- new truck – likely to be backlogged for purchase;
- \$25-30,000 for Herring Creek phragmites removal.

Constable's Replacement

Dave Faber spoke to Town Hall and the Select Board. The position would be advertised shortly based on the current job description (experience in the field, constables' course certification, etc.) with a December deadline so the new Constable could overlap/train with Paul Bagnall.

- Town Hall requested Shellfish Committee input (see below: Actions).

PUBLIC COMMENT

(See documents on file & below: Actions.)

Edgartown Great Pond Foundation President Michael Shalett and Executive Director Emily Reddington advocated strongly for dredging the Great Pond this year. They expressed considerable disappointment in the Dredge Committee decision that the beach was too narrow to sustain the necessary truck traffic and protested the focus on sand material and sale needed for the Left Fork without also including the importance of Pond health—to sustain/preserve 40 impressive years of ecological restoration. Important points included:

- the long dredge season for Edgartown Great Pond;
- dredging impact on cut effectiveness to flush the entire Pond including its coves;

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- high salinity (at least 20 ppt) needed for eelgrass to thrive and expand—which also removed carbon from the atmosphere;

Since the Foundation had its own dredge for many years this was only the second time the Town dredge was requested. Mr. Shalett praised and thanked Paul Bagnall for his letter of support. The Foundation was interested in education on the issue, and requested Shellfish Committee advocacy, if possible, in maintaining habitat. Shellfish Committee representative to the Dredge Committee Ryan Smith reported that the sand was needed to replenish an important beach, but that there was still a goal to get the dredge into Great Pond.

- There was general understanding of the Dredge Committee balancing act between budgeting and projects. Shellfish Committee members were very supportive of Edgartown Great Pond health and thanked Michael Shalett and Emily Reddington for their attendance.

- Current Pond salinity was about 20 ppt and a cut was planned for later in the week coordinating with the stormy weather and full moon tide.

Meetings/Events

- Dredge Committee – 4:00PM, Thursdays - Zoom

- **Edg. Shellfish – 4:30PM, Tuesdays, December 7 & 21, 2021 - Zoom**

ADJOURNMENT

- **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:16PM; RYAN SMITH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, RYAN SMITH—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE.**

**Actions To Be Done:**

- Paul – email Town Hall re: Lewis license application.
- Christian/Ryan/Nick – coordinate time and meet with Town Hall re: new Constable hire.
- December Agenda –
  - Aquaculture Regulations on Equipment Retrieval
  - Edgartown Great Pond Dredging
  - Continued actions from previous meetings:
  - Christian – send letter to Select Board requesting permission to honor Les Baynes.
  - Paul – ask Les Baynes for schedule for hamburger dinner.
  - Paul – contact Kristy Rose re: baseline Aquaculture Wait List status.

- **Proposed Aquaculture Regulation Amendment**

3. D. All cages, equipment or bags shall be located within the marked farm boundaries or on the raft(s); with the exception of upwellers which will be located with the approval of the Harbormaster and/or Selectmen.

**continued >**

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**Proposed Aquaculture Regulation Amendment (cont.)**

#3 D...

- It shall be a priority of all lease holders to retrieve and return to their lot (if possible within forty-eight (48) hours of notification) any equipment including but not limited to cages, bags, floats, upwellers and rafts that might break free during weather or for any other reason.

° If not removed in a reasonable amount of time, owner will be charged for staff hours and expenses incurred in returning any/all equipment to the lease/lot.

(or)

° If not removed in a reasonable amount of time staff may impound and/or confiscate the off-site equipment. (11/16/21)

**Documents on File:**

- Agenda 11/16/21
- The Impacts of Dredging on the Ecosystem Health of Edgartown Great Pond (4 p.) April 2020
- Bagnall/Reddington emails re: EGP cut (3 p.) 10/22/21

**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.