

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 4:30PM
by Zoom Cloud Conference

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, David Faber, Madeline Fisher,
Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Jason Mallory, Rob Morrison,
Others: Edg. Great Pond Foundation: Michael Shalett, Emily Reddington

The meeting was called to order.

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

MINUTES

Recorder Marni Lipke was doing well but was not yet attending meetings.

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Staff was working on gear, boat hauling and normal upkeep.
- Constable Paul Bagnall was waiting on Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association (MSOA) word on any State closures around mooring areas—probably at Jackson's Landing.
- The Upweller and oyster buy-in State grants were awarded.

Bay Scallop Update

The season continued better than expected, but was slowing down with 20 limits coming in at 9:30-10:00AM instead of 8:30 or 9:00AM. Staff dealt with some questionable quirks (large scallops with reduced growth rate) by distributing the State 2.5 inch gage.

NEW BUSINESS

Oyster Season

Trying to balance the oyster season as scalloping slowed down, a January 15th opening with the same limit as last year was suggested. Scalloping was the more profitable catch, and the oyster market was still unknown. There was general agreement on the date and staff liked last year's shift from washbaskets (bushels) to 100 count bags. Details could be fine tuned if necessary before the opening.

• CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO OPEN THE SENGEKONTACKET POND OYSTER SEASON ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022,

- 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;

NICK TURNER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, DAVE FABER—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE.

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Paul Bagnall would contact the Fishermen's Preservation Trust about possible purchases to help sustain Vineyard oystering.

OLD BUSINESS

Constable's Replacement

Paul Bagnall's last day (and meeting) would be January 18, 2022. The position and comprehensive job description was advertised with a deadline of December 27th.

Articles 2022

Spring 2022 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) warrant articles were submitted as follows:

- \$39,000 Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group (MVSG) dues,
- \$44,000 standard Shellfish Committee propagation;
- \$15,000 Carolina skiff outboard motor;
- \$75,000 guesstimate (by Town Hall advice) for a ¾ ton truck (could not be verified);
- Herring Creek culvert phragmites removal—awaiting Conservation Commission decision.

Edgartown Great Pond (See 11/16/21 Minutes p. 2-3.)

- The Edgartown Great Pond Foundation seminar was well organized and drew good press coverage. Dr. Javier Lloret of the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory gave a scientific but very accessible and understandable overview of nitrogen pollution, wastewater impact, data on pond openings/dredging, and next steps. The talk could be viewed at the following URI:

<https://greatpondfoundation.org/2022/05/27/wastewater-nitrogen-study/>

- The Dredge Committee had not included Edgartown Great Pond on this year's schedule. The Foundation representatives again stressed the importance of dredging on the health of the Pond's fragile ecosystems, noting the short duration (7-10 days) of such a project, the positive results of the previous dredges in flushing wastewater nitrogen especially from the north end of the Pond, and that spring cuts to the ocean were the most effective.
- Paul Bagnall reported that after some trepidation, the Pond was cut on Saturday, December 4th resulting in a well established channel and decent results in both water level and salinity. He cautioned that shoaling at the foot of Wintucket Cove should be monitored (requiring dredging about every 20 years).
- Foundation President Michael Shalett expressed gratitude and commendations for Paul Bagnall's support and advocacy over the years and emphasized the importance of a good scientific background for a Shellfish Constable.
- The Committee thanked the Foundation representatives and confirmed their focus on the health of the Edgartown ponds which went hand-in-hand with wild and aquaculture shellfishing. The most expensive part of the Great Pond project would be the crane which moved the dredge.

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE TO DIRECT RYAN SMITH TO CONVEY TO THE DREDGE COMMITTEE THE SHELLFISH COMMITTEE'S STRONG SUPPORT OF THE EDGARTOWN GREAT POND

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FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR A DREDGE PROJECT IN EDGARTOWN GREAT POND THIS YEAR IF POSSIBLE.

The Foundation thanked the Committee and Paul Bagnall for their support.

Meetings/Events

- Dredge Committee – 4:00PM, Thursdays - Zoom
- **Edg. Shellfish – 4:30PM, Tuesdays, December 21, 2021, January 4, 2022 - Zoom**

ADJOURNMENT

• **CHRISTIAN THORNTON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:16PM; MADELINE FISHER SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: CHRISTIAN THORNTON—AYE, MADELINE FISHER—AYE, DAVE FABER—AYE, NICK TURNER—AYE.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Ryan – communicate Committee support of Edg. Great Pond dredge to Dredge Committee.
- 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

Documents on File:

- Agenda 12/7/21
- Shellfish, Shellfish Constable/Herring Warden (4 p.)

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.