

Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 4:30PM
by Zoom Cloud Conference

Present: Chair – Christian Thornton, David Faber, Madeline Fisher*,
Ryan Smith, Nick Turner,
Shellfish Dept. Paul Bagnall, Warren Gaines, Jason Mallory, Rob Morrison,

The meeting was called to order.

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

CONSTABLE'S & DEPUTIES' REPORT

- Staff was working on gear and preparing to build another upweller (see 12/21/21 Minutes p.1).
- Recorder Marni Lipke was doing well and would return for the next meeting

Scallop Season

The season was plugging along and winding down with colder temperatures and limits taking longer to catch. However as this season was better than expected current catches were all bonus time and prices were holding up.

OLD BUSINESS

Constable's Replacement

Next meeting would be Paul Bagnall's last and this was Rob Morrison's last deputy report as he was appointed as the new Shellfish Constable. The Committee expressed their congratulations and support to Rob, and appreciation, gratitude and commendations to Paul for his long service. His decades of history and wealth of knowledge would be sorely missed. Rob Morrison had good day-to-day/boots-on-the-ground experience but would train with Paul Bagnall on administrative duties: Munis (Town budget software), payroll, the upcoming Finance Committee (FinCom) budget/articles interview, etc.

- The Department would now advertise to hire a new deputy, and Rob Morrison welcomed Committee input and participation.
- Paul Bagnall praised and thanked the Shellfish Committee members for their excellent work and dedication, also endorsed by the general confidence of the fishing community.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Reports

- Paul Bagnall was writing the final draft of the Town Report due Friday, January 7th. Between the spring scallop season extension (see 3/16/21 Minutes p.1) and the unexpectedly good current season, 2021 was working out to be over 3,000 washbaskets (bushels) or in pounds/catch value just over \$1,000,000.
- The Shellfish interview with the FinCom (see below: Meetings/Events) was usually fairly smooth. Shellfish was ~ \$400,000 (1%) of the Town \$40,000,000 budget. This year the budget was up 3.5% with ~\$8,000,000 in warrant articles, usually voted from Free Cash. The Town was in good financial shape and residents were paying their taxes.

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- The Shellfish Committee propagation article was instituted in response to Proposition 2 ½. The Town requested the \$44,000 article remain level-funded—however it was sometimes pinched, for example:
 - years when fishermen were paid to return large scallop washups after storms; and
 - the increasing cost of the Chappaquiddick Nursery.
- Between purchase, transportation and distribution, the cost of off-Island sourced quahog relay was reaching about \$80 per bushel, so Rob Morrison suggested exploring an Island source.
- Madeline Fisher volunteered to be on the Town Master Plan Committee—now just starting its long process. Priority focus was on agriculture and wastewater, so she added aquaculture. The Committee thanked her and discussed the tie-in with water quality and commercial as well as recreational shellfishing which had been important subjects on the last Master Plan.

Meetings/Events

- Dredge Committee – 4:00PM, Thursdays - Zoom
- **Edg. Shellfish – 4:30PM, Tuesdays, January 18, & February 1, 2022 – Zoom**
- Shellfish FinCom Interview – 3:00PM, Thursday, January 27, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Happy Holidays to everyone.

- **MADELINE FISHER MOVED TO ADJOURN; RYAN SMITH 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.**

Actions To Be Done:

- Continued actions from previous meetings:
 - Christian – send letter to Select Board requesting permission to honor Les Baynes.
 - ask Les Baynes for schedule for hamburger dinner.
 - Rob – contact Kristy Rose re: baseline Aquaculture Wait List status

Documents on File:

- Agenda 1/4/22

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.

continued

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Middle Flats lots votes (continued):

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.