

**Edgartown Shellfish Committee
Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 4:30pm
At the Edgartown Library**

Present: Ryan Smith, Madeline Fisher, David Faber
Shellfish Dept. Rob Morrison, Julie Pringle
Others: Juliet Mulinare (Recorder)

The meeting of the Edgartown Shellfish Committee was called to order at 4:35pm.

SHELLFISH PERMITS & AQUACULTURE LICENSES

None.

Rob informed the Committee that he has received additional inquiries about aquaculture lease sites at the Middle Flats area. The Committee discussed the process for securing a lease to one of the available areas, and how to expand on the existing opportunities to utilize the area, which has plenty of space. The Committee discussed how the area could potentially serve as a back-up for Katama Bay oyster farmers if, for example, there is Vibrio present in the Bay.

MINUTES

None.

DEPUTY/CONSTABLE REPORT

Julie reported that the Department participated in an outreach event with the Edgartown School Kindergarten class today where they got to interact with the kids and teach them about the different kinds of local shellfish. She also stated that they received scallop seed and quahogs from the Shellfish Group and they are also in the process of splitting oysters.

The Committee welcomed Julie to the Shellfish Department.

Rob stated that he is going to start rotating the Deputies who attend the meetings so that the Committee can interact with the other members of the Department regularly.

Rob also stated that an Edgartown resident has disputed the location of the concrete markers that delineate the Edgartown/Oak Bluffs town line in Sengekontacket as they pertain to each town's designated shellfishing areas. Rob has contacted the MVC cartographer to see if they can provide any clarifying information.

LINE ITEM TRANSFER

Rob informed the Committee that the Year-End transfer was approved; he is currently getting quotes for a new engine and will use the rest of the money for equipment maintenance.

EDGARTOWN GREAT POND COMMERCIAL STEAMER CLAM SEASON

Rob submitted a letter to the Selectboard stating that the Committee approved the EGP Steamer Clam season for this summer.

ONLINE SHELLFISH LICENSES

Rob stated that online licenses are currently available and the system seems to be working well, feedback has been positive. He is also getting the flyer he shared earlier this spring printed so it can be distributed to license holders and posted at shellfishing areas.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/EDUCATION

Rob stated that the Department is working on some outreach initiatives; in addition to the visit with the Kindergarten class, they will also be attending the High School's Climate Summit at Felix Neck on Thursday to provide demonstrations on fly fishing and raking quahogs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The Committee will meet again on June 6th and June 20th. The meetings in July and August will be remote.

At 5:11pm, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. No further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously, 3-0.

Minutes submitted by Juliet Mulinare.