

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Members present: Andy Lowell, Ginger Andrews, Peter Brace,
Dave Bossi, Tom Szydlowski

Members Absent: Dave Fronzuto, Dan Pronk

Marine Dept: Sheila Lucey

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others:

CALL TO ORDER

5:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of Oct. 19, 2021

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report.

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

Ms. Lucey reported that this year's slip lottery went smoothly with 182 applicants. Ms. Lucey reported that she advertised the lottery on social media as the HSAB had requested. She added that the applicants were very happy with the change of one applicant per registration.

Ms. Lucey reported that the Town pier sustained significant damage including nine of the eleven floating docks and the wave attenuator at the end of the pier. She added that the repairs will be done on land at Washington Street Extension. She said she hopes

to get Mohawk Marine, which is already working at the boat basin, to repair the wave attenuator.

Ms. Lucey said she is working with the Nantucket Islands Land Bank on new places on the waterfront for kayak storage including the Land Bank land next to the Marine Department office.

Ms. Lucey reported that most of the moorings are out of the harbors. She added that she recently recovered a 32-foot boat that sank off of Second Pier. She added that the sailboat owned by Tim Lewis up on the beach way up in the Creeks and that she is working with Towboat US to get this boat removed from land. Ms. Lucey reported that she was able to remove the beached boat from the south shore without much damage to the boat and no release of petroleum products into the ocean.

Ms. Lucey, in answer to Mr. Lowell's question on this, reported that the owner of the recently removed boat near Second Pier is paying all of the recovery costs and willingly cooperating with Ms. Lucey.

Mr. Brace thanked Ms. Lucey for attending the meeting. Mr. Brace asked Ms. Lucey about the planned replacement of the floating pier with floating docks made of concrete to replace the floating piers damaged in previous storm events. Ms. Lucey said the permitting process has been extensive and is taking a long time to complete. She added that has all of the permits except for from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Lowell apprised Ms. Lucey on having Steve McKenna of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management attend the HSAB's Oct. 16, 2021 meeting to advise the board on how to proceed with a pilot micro-dredging project to remove sand from select eelgrass beds. Ms. Lucey said she would give this some thought on how such a project might aid her department's efforts. Ms. Lucey reported on the status of the 8,000 dye tablets for boat holding tanks paid for by the Nantucket Land Council. Ms. Lucey said the boat basin will be putting them in their welcome bags for their customers and the Town's pumpout boats will be handing them out after pumpouts. Ms. Lucey added that Town pumpout

boat crews will be ensuring that boaters put the tablets in their holding tanks and she added she will be creating a system of logging which boat owners put the tablets in their tanks. Ms. Lucey said that U.S. Coast Guard at Station Brant Point when inspecting boats within the harbor will be handing out the tablets as well along with ensuring boat holding tank discharge pipes are wired shut.

Ms. Lucey left the meeting at 5:19 p.m.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley read coastal resilience coordinator Vincent Murphy's summary on the recently released Coastal Resilience Plan.

Ms. Riley, on behalf of water quality specialist Thais Fournier, reported that the Town opened Sesachacha Pond on Nov. 1 and that she expected it to close on Nov. 3 because the pond's level was too low to begin with. Ms. Riley said that the Town opened Hummock Pond on Oct. 26 and it closed on Oct. 28.

Ms. Riley reported that Ms. Fournier was off island meeting with algae experts to get a better understanding of the lyngbia algae problem Nantucket has in its harbors and to learn more about the bacteria tracking data collected in Madaket Harbor.

Ms. Riley reported that the state's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) recently re-opened shellfish beds in front of Hulbert Avenue and on the Horse Shed to the taking of quahogs and other shellfish. She added that the Town has until May 1, 2022 to generate a plan to keep these areas open.

Ms. Riley reported that last blow did not find much scallop blown into shallow water or onto the beach. But, she is concerned that there were no strandings. However, Ms. Riley said she and her staff found a large set of scallop half-dollar sized seed, with no adults at all, in Madaket Harbor, around 50 scallops per square meter and some parts of this harbor, 100 scallops per square meter.

She added that she and her staff will be monitoring this seed area through the winter and decide if some of it needs to be moved. On the opening day of the commercial scallop season, Nov. 1, Ms. Riley reported that 30-35 boats went out, and only two boats in Madaket Harbor, and that the price is higher than normal for opening day. However, scallopers are reporting not much out there. Mr. Brace asked if the scallopers might bring in less scallops as way to drive up the boat price. Ms. Riley said the Nantucket Shellfish Association (NSA) is trying to get more scallopers to join the NSA on its way toward creating a fishermen's cooperative that could be used to work the boat price to the fishermen's advantage. Mr. Lowell said this season's opening price is \$22/pound compared with last season's opening price of \$12/pound. He added that he also heard that there aren't a lot of scallops in the harbor. Mr. Lowell asked Ms. Riley to reach out to commercial scallop diver Tim Mooney to hear his reports of sparse eelgrass on the bottom of Nantucket Harbor. Mr. Lowell reported on his visit to Carl Sjolund's shanty where Mr. Sjolund showed several scallop shells coated tiny scallop seed. Ms. Riley confirmed that she saw these shells herself and added that her spat bags were packed this year, and also that oyster farmers are reporting tiny scallop seed on their oysters and their cages. She added that fall-spawned scallops seem to be thriving later into the year before going dormant for the winter.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Excessive sand in scallops/Dredging plan –
No discussion.

Future guest speakers – discussion

Mr. Lowell mentioned the possibility of having local divers Tim Mooney and Phil Osley attend a future HSAB meeting.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Excessive lawn fertilizer use – Update & discussion

Mr. Lowell, referencing a conversation with other NSA members who said they wished the Town could ban the use of fertilizers.

Mr. Andrews said there should be a long-term goal of Nantucket becoming a poison-free island, noting how pesticides kill barn owls.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

Ms. Riley reported that the Natural Resources Department begins its meeting with the DMF on Nov. 3 to work on a plan to keep shellfish beds open. Mr. Brace suggested that Ms. Riley work with Ms. Lucey on identifying all of the boats in the harbor that have heads and working to relocate them so they're not concentrated in one area. Ms. Riley added that she wants to see how the Marine Department is going make sure boat basin boat captains put their dye tablets into their holding tanks.

Water quality testing update and boat holding tank dye tablet distribution

Mr. Lowell relayed comments at the most recent NSA meeting on the NRD expanding its water quality testing sites in the harbors. He added that the NSA offered to help the NRD with funding an expanded water quality sampling program.

NEW BUSINESS

FY22 HSAB report – Review and vote

Mr. Szydlowski said he sent Mr. Brace revised text on the slip lottery that clarifies the HSAB position on the slip lottery and that states that the HSAB did not come up with the idea for lifetime

slips. Mr. Brace said he would replace his wording with this revision from Mr. Szydlowski. Mr. Bossi agreed and supported this change.

Mr. Bossi suggested cutting the text explaining what the HSAB is and how it was created in 1976 in order to keep the word count of the report as low as possible.

The HSAB voted 5-0 to approve the FY21 HSAB report with revisions.

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board - Update

Mr. Brace reported that the final Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) had been created. He added that Mr. Murphy asked that the respective members of the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee go back to the boards they represent and ask for comments on the CRP in light of the mission of their boards. Mr. Brace asked that the other members of the HSAB read the plan and then bring back comments to the next HSAB meeting.

The HSAB discussed the possibility of mining sand from off shore shoals to aid in mitigating the impacts of sea level rise on Nantucket. The HSAB also discussed some possible ways to bolster Coatie and the Haulover with some of this off shore shoal mined sand.

Outlook on first day of commercial scallop season – Discussion

This item was previously discussed under the Natural Resources Department report.

HSAB-sponsored Town Meeting article – Discussion

Mr. Lowell explained his idea for a stormwater runoff abatement article for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting to be sponsored by the HSAB. Mr. Bossi said he would support such an article if written correctly. Mr. Szydlowski said such an article should not apply island-wide because not all of the island's developed areas drain into the harbors. Mr. Lowell admitted that this issue isn't entirely the responsibility of the HSAB, but he said he felt the

immeasurable amount of untreated runoff needs to be addressed and kept out of the harbors. Mr. Szydlowski suggested Mr. Lowell focus on properties within the watersheds of Nantucket and Madaket harbors. Mr. Brace reported that on the direction of Erika Mooney, the HSAB cannot sponsor Town Meeting articles. Mr. Lowell agreed.

Mr. Lowell expressed his desire to ban the sale of fertilizers on Nantucket. Ms. Andrews said this idea has been pursued before but never went anywhere because the state controls the regulation of fertilizers.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 5-0, at 6:31 p.m.

YOUTUBE MEETING LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BkFcYNmEEk&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

Nov. 16 and Dec. 7

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary