

Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Tuesday, April 5 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
***HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

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

Members Absent: Dave Fronzuto, Dan Pronk, Tom Szydlowski

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept: Tara Riley

Others: Emily Molden (Nantucket Land Council), Kona Hosier

CALL TO ORDER

5:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved, 4-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of March 15, 2022

Unanimously approved, 4-0

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Election & Town Meeting announcements

Mr. Brace reported that Town Meeting is on May 3, 2022 and Town Election is on May 10, 2022. Mr. Brace added that the Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission (NP&EDC) meets on April 25, 2022 at 5 p.m. He and Mr. Lowell reminded the HSAB that at this meeting, the NP&EDC would be discussing how this commission might help to ban the use of fertilizer on the island. Mr. Lowell urged all HSAB members to attend.

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

No report.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

Ms. Riley reported that although she is still waiting for some late catch reports from commercial scallopers, her estimate for the season's total catch is 3,200 to 3,500 bushels landed.

Ms. Riley reported that in cooperation with the Nantucket Shellfish Association (NSA) and some commercial scallopers, she and her staff will be relocating scallop seed from the large cache of seed in Madaket Harbor to various safer locations.

Ms. Riley reported that the Great Harbor Yacht Club (GHYC) purchased a flow cytometer for the Natural Resources Department. This instrument processes large amounts of phytoplankton, allowing the rapid identification of harmful algae blooms (HAB).

Ms. Riley reported that the shellfish hatchery did its' first quahog spawn of the season on April 1 and that the hatchery did its first bay scallop spawns including on planned for April 6 and many more throughout the summer.

Ms. Riley said she met with Nantucket Harbormaster Sheila Lucey recently to learn from her where all of the boats with heads in them will be moored in Nantucket Harbor. She added that she just sent her final version of her letter to the state's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) regarding keeping shellfish beds in Nantucket Harbor open for the digging of quahogs out to the HSAB and all concerned on Nantucket for their final review. She added that the rental moorings along the Horse Shed could be an issue because it's not known if boats with heads would use these moorings this summer.

Ms. Riley reported that as a member of the Peconic Bay Technical Committee on Long Island, N.Y., she's privy to this bay scallop

fishery having had no adults to harvest during the last three seasons. She added that it's important for Nantucket to watch Peconic Bay's situation as it evolves because of what can be learned from this fishery's demise. She added that they have a lot of good seed, but it hasn't been surviving to adulthood.

Ms. Riley informed the HSAB that Ted Lambrecht and Sean Fitzgibbon recently met with NRD director Jeff Carlson on the proposed transfer of Mr. Lambrecht's oyster lease to Mr.

Fitzgibbon.

Mr. Lowell said the NSA is considering contributing \$6,000 to the effort of moving seed from Madaket Harbor. Mr. Lowell praised Ms. Riley's effort writing a letter to the DMF to ensure shellfish beds are open for digging Quahogs in Nantucket Harbor this year. Mr. Brace asked how the openings of Sesachacha and Hummock ponds went. Ms. Riley did not have a pond report.

Ms. Andrews reported that a Quidnet property owners observed that Sesachacha Pond drained well but didn't stay open for very long.

Mr. Bossi took issue with the revised liveaboard registration form that Ms. Riley forwarded to the HSAB prior this meeting, noting that much of what the HSAB had recommended to Ms. Lucey and the Select Board was not included on the form. Mr. Bossi suggested that Mr. Brace follow up on this issue with Erika Mooney. He added that he would email the email thread on this issue to Mr. Brace so he could correctly question Ms. Mooney on this matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Excessive sand in scallops/Dredging plan – Discussion

No discussion.

Fertilizer-ban articles – Discussion

Mr. Lowell reminded the HSAB to attend the NP&EDC meeting on April 25 at 5 p.m.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Stormwater runoff and harbor impacts

Mr. Lowell explained that this is a new item under the Health of the Harbors heading. He stressed that with all the new development currently occurring on the island it's vital that the HSAB push for more awareness on this issue.

Ms. Andrews said that the HSAB should request the maps of the areas of town showing which areas flow into which outfall pipe along the harbor.

Excessive lawn fertilizer use: Update – Discussion – New information

Ms. Riley reported that installation of the 12-inch PVC sewer pipes along South Shore Road is producing large piles of plastic shards produced as these pipes are cut to fit in their trench. Reporting this to Sewer Department director David Gray yielded no remedial action. Mr. Lowell expressed his dismay learning this news from Ms. Riley and praised her for alerting the HSAB.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

Mr. Lowell praised Ms. Riley again for her letter. Ms. Riley stressed that this item remain on the HSAB agenda at least until after May 1, 2022 when the closure for 2022, if it's to happen, goes into effect.

Water quality testing

No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Land Council eelgrass restoration project

Ms. Molden offered to work with Ms. Riley on dealing with the plastic shavings created by the cutting of the 12-inch PVC pipe for the town's sewer project now happening on South Shore Road. Mr. Lowell said he has similar concerns about the silica dust that goes airborne created when brick, Belgium block, granite and other stone is cut

Ms. Molden detailed the Nantucket Land Council's (NLC) four-year and counting eelgrass restoration efforts in Nantucket Harbor including a half-acre plot off of Monomoy and a new half-acre site in Fifth Bend where eelgrass has been gradually declining. Ms. Molden added that the Land Council will, in addition to transplanting eelgrass from Hussey Shoal to its plots, will be planting eelgrass seeds in these plots. This will involve collecting seed and immediately planting it as well as removing seeds from eelgrass plants nurtured in the Brant Point shellfish hatchery. Ms. Molden said the Land Council will be receiving enough state funding for this project for three years. She added that the Land Council monitor the site for five years.

Ms. Molden said the Land Council will work with the HSAB and the NRD to close this new site to all shellfishing/

Ms. Molden said shellfishing ban at the Monomoy site has contributed greatly to the success of the transplanted eelgrass at this site.

Ms. Molden said if the eelgrass transplanting and seeding is successful in Nantucket Harbor, she hopes the Land Council and the NRD can continue to work together to keep restoring eelgrass beds in Nantucket Harbor.

Ms. Riley thanked Ms. Molden and the Land Council for taking the lead on eelgrass restoration in the harbor and for working with the NRD on this project.

Ms. Molden, in answer to Mr. Lowell's question on the results, said that there's been a 50-60 percent success rate with the transplanted eelgrass, pretty close to as successful as possible. Mr. Lowell asked how the sediment of a new site is tested for possible eelgrass restoration. Ms. Molden said the fact that the

Fifth Bend site has supported eelgrass in the past is a major reason for the Land Council to trust the sediment in this area. Ms. Molden said the Land Council won't do a sieve analysis of the sediment at Fifth Bend because the site has supported eelgrass in the past. She added that closing the site to shellfishing and dealing with kiteboarders will be challenges for this new site.

Ms. Riley said that the Fifth Bend is one of 45 sites in the harbors that she and her crew regularly survey, and every year, this site is recorded as hard bottom sand.

Ms. Andrews said she was encouraged that this project was working out and she thanked the Land Council and the NRD for its work.

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board – Update

Mr. Brace reported that the Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee (CRAC) met earlier in the day and discussed how the CRAC proceeds now that the Coastal Resilience Plan (CRP) has been created. He added that the CRAC discussed whether the committee should be permanent and how its members should be appointed and re-appointed, as well as should the CRAC remain an advisory committee or become a regulatory committee.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Brace suggested that the HSAB resolve the issue of the missing parts of the liveaboard registration form before the April 19 meeting. Mr. Lowell agreed.

ADJOURN

Unanimously approved, 4-0, at 6:14 p.m.

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTlcn3WR1-4&list=PL49sKqpy7VAj6nJnAlrlKlxWm6VQTfuXg&index=1>

Future Meetings:

April 19 and May 3

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary