

**Harbor and Shellfish Advisory Board
Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Via Zoom
*HSAB meeting are video-recorded**

Members present: Andy Lowell, Scott Anderson, Dave Fronzuto, Peter Brace, Ginger Andrews

Members Absent: Dave Bossi, Stephen Payor

Marine Dept:

Natural Resources Dept:

Others: Emily Molden

CALL TO ORDER

5:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Draft minutes of May 17, 2022

Unanimously approved, 5-0.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Election of HSAB officers

The board agreed to wait to elect new officers until all seven HSAB members were in attendance.

MARINE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

General Marine Department report – Sheila Lucey

No report.

NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

General Natural Resources Department report – NRD staff

No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MARINE DEPARTMENT / NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Endorsement for temporary shellfish and anchoring closure at new eelgrass restoration site – Emily Molden

Ms. Molden explained the Nantucket Land Council's proposed eelgrass restoration project's continuation on a half-acre of harbor bottom in Fifth Bend near Bass Point. She explained how transplanted eelgrass plants at the Land Council's first half-acre site just off of the shore in front of Monomoy are not only growing well, but spawning new plants by themselves. Ms. Molden said she had obtained the support of Nantucket's harbormaster and the U.S. Coast Guard at Station Brant Point for marking the new area with buoys. She asked for the support of the HSAB in the form of letter to be sent to the Select Board prior to its public hearing on this request from the Land Council.

Mr. Fronzuto asked for a map showing the new site. Ms. Molden displayed a map on her screen showing the proposed new site.

The HSAB voted unanimously, 5-0, to endorse Ms. Molden's temporary closure request on behalf of the Land Council for a half-acre of harbor bottom in Fifth Bend near Bass Point by directing Mr. Brace to write a letter to the Select Board stating the HSAB's support.

Ms. Molden left the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Letter of support for Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management grant application for funding of onshore storm barrier feasibility study – Discussion

Mr. Brace explained that the HSAB missed the window for filing a letter of support for this grant application.

Liveaboard application – Discussion

Mr. Lowell said the new registration form seems to have all of the HSAB's recommended revisions. Mr. Fronzuto said he wanted to make sure that Mr. Bossi gets the chance to weigh in on the form as it's been revised. Mr. Anderson asked why the need for a current boat insurance policy. Mr. Fronzuto explained the need to protect other boaters from a boat breaking free of its mooring and or washing ashore and possibly breaking into pieces. Mr. Anderson said he hoped pollution by boats was covered. Mr. Fronzuto assured him pollution was covered.

Mr. Lowell said the HSAB can always revisit this form and recommend other revisions as it sees fit. Mr. Brace explained the confusion of not getting the revised form to Mr. Anderson.

Excessive sand in scallops/Dredging plan – Discussion

Mr. Lowell said he hasn't heard anything about the Town's forthcoming dredging plan.

HEALTH OF THE HARBORS

Stormwater runoff and harbor impacts

Ms. Andrews said she witnessed a landscaping worker liberally spreading fertilizer by hand near her house and that the next day, an intense rain storm occurred, likely washing this fertilizer into the harbor. Mr. Lowell mentioned a similar rain event that clogged storm drains along the harbor waterfront with bark mulch, which he said was then promptly replaced. He suggested that there needs to be a better way of containing the mulch on flower beds and under privet hedges to keep it from washing into the harbor during rain events.

Mr. Lowell shared with the HSAB that Town Manager Libby Gibson during her report at a recent meeting requested a public hearing on surface water and groundwater protection regulations. Ms. Andrews agreed that the requested public hearing is a good idea and to have the maps of the storm drains entering the harbor available during this public hearing.

Excessive lawn fertilizer use: Update – Discussion – New information

No discussion.

FDA shellfish taking prohibition in mooring fields

Mr. Fronzuto asked if anyone from the Federal Food & Drug Administration (FDA) had been down to the island to see for themselves what Town biologist Tara Riley had explained to the FDA in her letter requesting that shellfish beds not be closed in Nantucket Harbor this summer. Mr. Lowell didn't have an answer for him. Mr. Fronzuto urged the HSAB to follow through with getting NRD director Jeff Carlson to attend a future HSAB meeting to address its questions on many fronts. Mr. Lowell said he would contact Mr. Carlson before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Return to in-person meetings – Discussion

Mr. Brace explained that Town administration alerted him that the HSAB can start holding its meetings in person as soon as its ready to do so. The meeting venue would be the trailer next to the old fire station on Pleasant Street and would feature hybrid meeting capabilities allowing the Zoom format to coexist with the live meeting. Mr. Anderson said he is in favor of this change. Mr. Fronzuto agreed. Ms. Andrews agreed with reservations. But she added she's anxious about returning to in-person because the threat of COVID-19 and its variants is still very real, showing no signs of abating. Mr. Lowell validated Ms. Andrews' concerns, noting his own experience with the virus. He agreed that the hybrid meeting format would work well for all HSAB members Mr. Brace agreed and said this meeting format would work well for Mr. Payor who is technology-challenged. Ms. Andrews said she wanted make sure the Zoom meeting technology would work well with the in-person meeting setup.

The HSAB voted unanimously, 5-0, to return to in-person meetings with the caveat that Mr. Brace first explore other possible meeting venues and check in with Town administration on how well the hybrid meeting format works.

Coastal Resilience Advisory Board – Update

Mr. Brace did not have a report.

HSAB summer meeting schedule – Discussion

The HSAB agreed to meet once in July and once in August. The summer meetings will be July 5 and Aug. 2

Goals & Objectives – Discussion

Mr. Lowell explained this annual mechanism for the HSAB to tackle new issues during the upcoming year to Mr. Anderson. Mr. Anderson said one of his issues might be the new pier being built by the Nantucket Islands Land Bank into the southern end of Long Pond and what environmental issues might be stirred up. Ms. Andrews confirmed that the pier is under construction and that it isn't on top of where aquatic birds live and nest. She said she supports the goal of the Land Bank to provide places for people to experience the island's wilderness and wildlife.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENT

RECAP and ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURN

YOUTUBE LINK

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

Future Meetings:

July 5 and Aug. 2

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter B. Brace, Secretary